TALES OF VOODOO

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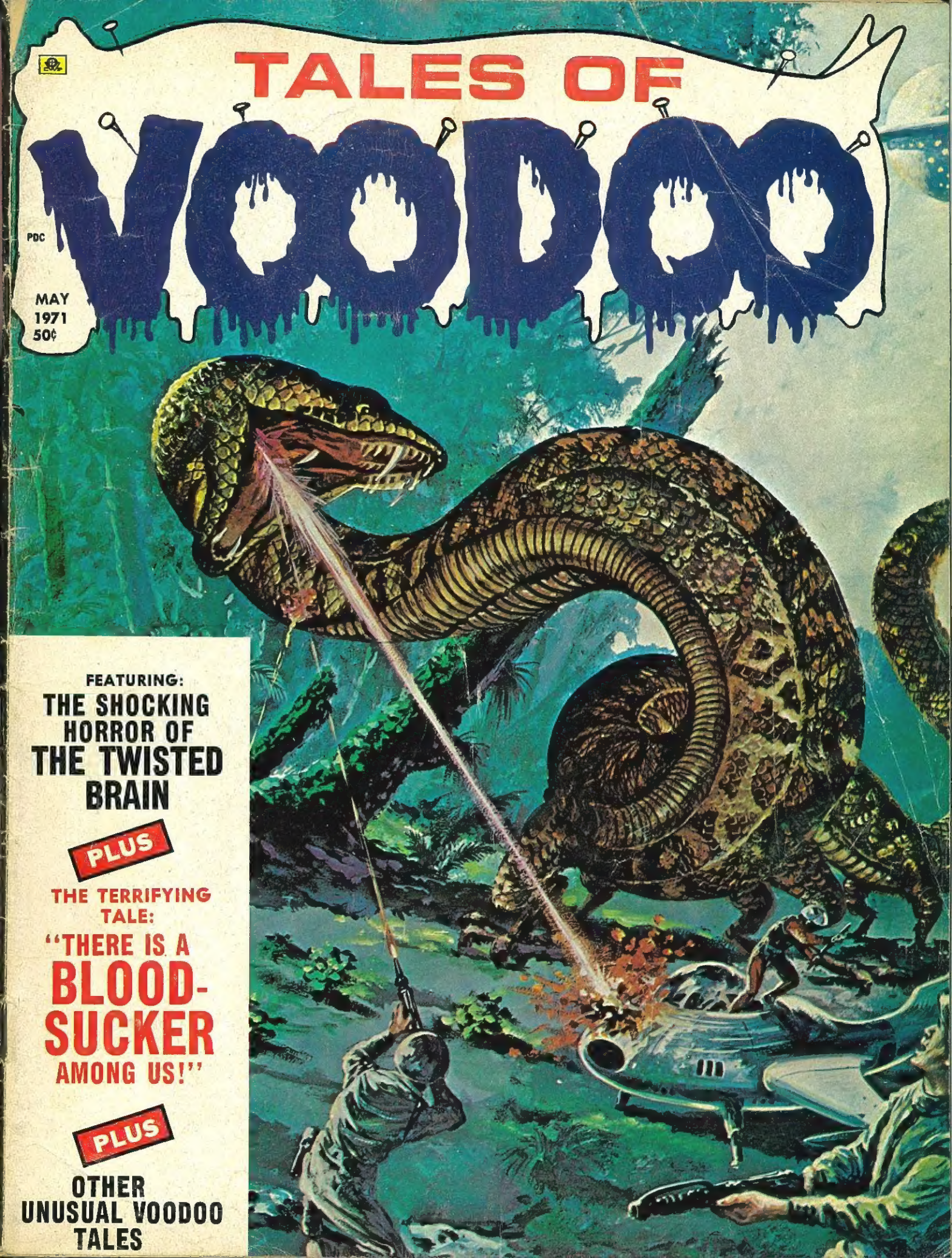
50¢



FEATURING:

THE SHOCKING HORROR OF THE TWISTED BRAIN

PLUS

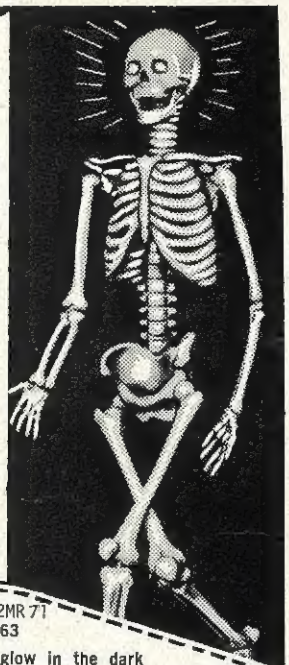
THE TERRIFYING TALE:

"THERE IS A BLOOD-SUCKER AMONG US!"

PLUS

OTHER UNUSUAL VOODOO TALES

MONSTER S-I-Z-E MONSTERS



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TALES OF VOODOO

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CARL BURGOS, Editor IRVING FASS, Art Director
EZRA JACKSON, Art Editor

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The Twisted Brain

ONLY ARTHUR DUNSTER KNEW THE TERRIBLE SECRET OF THE RELICS IN THE MUSEUM BASEMENT! AND HIS LIPS WERE SEALED...

FOR NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE THE FIENDISH PLOT THE LONG DEAD CURIOS WERE HATCHING THERE! AND DUNSTER WAS **DOOMED!**

AND AFTERWARD, AS THE FEW VISITORS LEAVE...
WELL, DUNSTER, I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO CLOSE YOUR RELIC BOOTH! THE PEOPLE JUST DON'T BELIEVE YOUR EXHIBITIONS OF EVIL!
YES, THEY COME ONLY TO LAUGH!
I WOULDN'T BE UPSET ABOUT IT DUNSTER! YOU CAN PACK THESE CURIOS UP IN THE STORE ROOM!
YES--YES, MR. DANE! I WILL PACK THEM AWAY AT ONCE!
THE DEJECTED CURATOR PUTS HIS BELOVED RELICS AWAY IN THE BASEMENT!
WHAT A PITY-- BRAVE EXPLORERS RISKED DEATH AND TORTURE TO UNEARTH YOU PIECES--AND NONE WILL BELIEVE THE HORROR THAT YOU HAVE WITNESSED!
SUDDENLY, THE DEATH MASK VIBRATES IN DUNSTER'S HANDS, A HOLLOW EERIE VOICE BOOMS FORTH--
DO--NOT FEAR... ARTHUR DUNSTER! VENGEANCE... SHALL BE OURS! SOON... THE WORLD... SHALL KNOW... OF THE EVIL POWER WE POSSESS!
ABRUPTLY, THE ROOM RINGS WITH A CHANT OF HORROR UNHEARD BY HUMAN EARS BEFORE!
THOSE WHO BROUGHT US FORTH... SHALL BE... THE PROOF OF OUR EVIL!
WE HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM OUR SACRED RESTING PLACES, WE SHALL STRIKE BACK!
THEN...
DO NOT FEAR US...
T-THEY'RE ALIVE! T-THEY'VE COME BACK TO LIFE... G-GREAT HEAVENS!
YOU ARE OUR FRIEND, DUNSTER!
G-GOOD GRIEF, DUNSTER... YOU LOOK FRIGHTFUL! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MAN?
W-WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME? T-THEY'LL CALL ME MAD IF I TELL THEM WHAT I SAW AND HEARD!
NO NO, MR DANE! JUST HAD A TOUCH OF A TOOTHACHE! I'LL GO HOME AND REST!

POOR DUNSTER-- HE WORKED NIGHT AND DAY FOR YEARS TO PUT HIS COLLECTION OF HORROR TOGETHER! THE PUBLIC'S REACTION WAS QUITE A SHOCK TO HIM!
YES, PERHAPS A VACATION WOULD HELP!
THAT NIGHT, SLEEP ESCAPES ARTHUR DUNSTER AS THE VISIONS OF HORROR COME ALIVE IN HIS SUB-CONSCIOUS MIND!
HEE, HEE! SOON VENGEANCE WILL BE OURS, ARTHUR DUNSTER! HO, HO!
NO, NO! DON'T TORMENT ME SO! PLEASE... GO AWAY!
MEANWHILE, KENNETH CRANDELL, EXPLORER, PREPARES FOR BED IN HIS MID-TOWN APARTMENT!
BETTER GET TO BED EARLY-- GOT TO GIVE THAT LECTURE AT THE EXPLORERS CLUB TOMORROW!
SUDDENLY, AS DARKNESS FILLS THE BED ROOM...
HELLO, KENNETH CRANDELL! WE ARE OLD FRIENDS... REMEMBER?
YIIEE
THE MASK--- THE AMAZON DEATH MASK! IT... CAN'T BE!
AH, BUT IT IS, CRANDELL! YOU REMOVED ME FROM THE DIM, DARK TOMB THAT WAS MY RESTING PLACE!
THE LEERING FACE OF EVIL MOVES CLOSER, CLOSER, SUDDENLY...
W-WHY DO YOU COME HERE? Y-YOU'RE ONLY A MASK! H-HOW DO YOU TALK!... MOVE?
HA HA HA
HA HA
THEN, THE NECK THONGS TIGHTEN, CRANDELL GASPS FOR AIR AND...
HERE IS YOUR REWARD FOR DEFILING MY RESTING PLACE, CRANDELL! YOU MAY WEAR ME!
YIII
NO, NO! IT'S DEATH TO WEAR YOU!
GASP

AND NEXT MORNING, MUSEUM OFFICIALS ARE HASTILY SUMMONED BY POLICE...
I--I FOUND POOR MR. CRANDALL JUST LIKE THAT!
YOU SAY THIS DEATH MASK WAS AT THE MUSEUM! HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR IT BEING HERE?
THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE EXPLANATION! IT WAS REMOVED FROM EXHIBITION FOR STORAGE YESTERDAY! MR. CRANDELL MUST HAVE TAKEN IT OUT... AND ACCIDENTLY KILLED HIMSELF WHILE TRYING IT ON!
HMM! THAT MAKES SENSE I GUESS! YOU'D THINK HE'D BE CAREFUL PLAYING WITH SUCH A FIENDISH THING!

BUT THAT AFTERNOON AT THE MUSEUM, ONE PERSON KNOWS THAT CRANDELL'S DEATH WAS NOT AN ACCIDENT!
YOU FIENDS! YOU'VE UNLEASHED YOUR EVIL UPON THE WORLD AGAIN! A-AND I HELPLESS TO STOP YOU!
DEATH MASK
ACCIDENT

AND YOU... YOU MURDERER... YOU'VE WON YOUR POINT! MR. DANE WANTS YOU ON DISPLAY UPSTAIRS BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE CURIOUS NOW! ONLY I KNOW IT WAS NO ACCIDENT!

LATER...
YES SIR!
THAT'S FINE, DUNSTER! AT LEAST ONE OF YOUR TREASURED RELICS IS GETTING A DISPLAY!
W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? MY HEAD-- I'M-- DIZZY-- SHAKING ALL OVER! SHOULD I TELL MR. DANE? NO-- NO, HE WOULD SURELY THINK ME MAD!

LATE THAT EVENING, TWO FAMOUS ARCHEOLOGISTS, PETER RANDOLF AND JOHN READE, MEET AT THE EXPLORERS CLUB DOWNTOWN!
HELLO, PETER! I GOT YOUR NOTE!
MY NOTE! BUT JOHN, I DIDN'T SEND A NOTE! YOU SENT ME ONE REQUESTING I SEE YOU HERE AT MIDNIGHT!

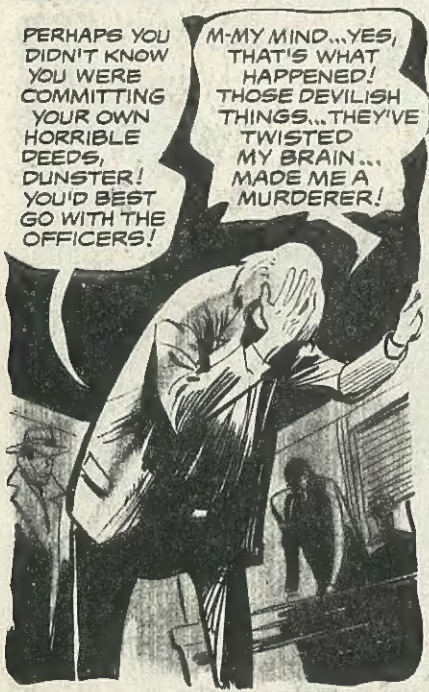
SUDDENLY, BEFORE THE BEWILDERED FRIENDS CAN CONTINUE...
SILENCE! YOU ARE BOTH MY GUESTS THIS EVENING!
G-GREAT GLORY! THE AZTEC DEVIL RULER!
AND CARRYING THE INFAMOUS MURDER MACE I UNEARTHED!

IN STUNNED HORROR THE TWO MEN RECOIL FROM THE CREATURE BEFORE THEM...
NOW I HAVE COME BACK TO LIFE TO SEEK VENGEANCE AGAINST YOU FOR DESECRATING MY TOMB!
I-IMPOSSIBLE! T-THE THING'S BEEN DEAD FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS!
THE CENTURIES OLD TERROR DESCENDS UPON THE PAIR! THE FLAILING MACE CUTS A SWARTH OF DEATH THROUGH THE AIR AND...
NOW, LET THE WORLD BELIEVE WE ARE INDEED THE SYMBOLS OF ALL THAT IS EVIL!
YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE OUR VENGEANCE, JOHN READE! AS SURELY AS THE SUN WILL RISE TOMORROW YOU WILL DIE BY THE MURDER MACE!
BUT THERE IS NO MERCY WITHIN THE LONG-DEAD MONSTER...
CRASH
THEN THE EYES OF THE FEARFUL DEATH RULER GLAZE OVER! WITH SLOW, MECHANICAL STEPS HE TREADS FROM THE SCENE OF HIS CARNAGE!
AFTERWARD, THE DAWN OPENS A DAY OF SHOCK AND HORROR AT THE MUSEUM!
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, MR. DANE... THIS MACE WAS THE WEAPON THAT KILLED THE MEN! CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE HANDWRITING OF THOSE NOTES?
I--I SEE, THESE NOTES LURED THEM TO THE RENDEZVOUS OF MURDER!

SUDDENLY... MR. DANE... I'VE JUST READ THE NEWSPAPER! I... CAN'T KEEP MY HIDEOUS SECRET ANY LONGER! THE RELICS ARE KILLING THOSE MEN... THEY TOLD ME SO!

NO, NO! I FEARED YOU WOULD THINK ME CRAZY! THE RELICS -- THEY MURDERED TO PROVE THEIR EVIL!
GREAT HANNAH! THE POOR DEVIL'S MAD... HE'S GONE OUT OF HIS MIND!

NO, DUNSTER... THESE NOTES THAT LURED READ AND RANDOLF TO THEIR DEATH PROVE OTHERWISE! THEY ARE IN YOUR HANDWRITING, DUNSTER!


PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE COMMITTING YOUR OWN HORRIBLE DEEDS, DUNSTER! YOU'D BEST GO WITH THE OFFICERS!
M-MY MIND... YES, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED! THOSE DEVILISH THINGS... THEY'VE TWISTED MY BRAIN... MADE ME A MURDERER!

WILD WITH THE HORROR OF HIS DEEDS, THE CURATOR RUSHES THROUGH THE MUSEUM...
I'LL KILL THEM-- I'LL KILL THEM ALL FOR THEIR TREACHERY!
STOP, DUNSTER! STOP!

THEN, AS DUNSTER RUSHES INTO THE STORAGE ROOM...
GOOD HEAVEN'S! WHAT'S HE DONE NOW!
ARRRGHH!

T-THE IRON MAIDEN... HE STUMBLED INTO HER!
UGH! WHAT A MISERABLE FATE!

AFTERWARD, WHEN THE POLICE SEARCHED THE ROOM THEY FOUND A DISGUISE THAT COULD BE USED TO MAKE HIMSELF TO LOOK LIKE ME! BUT THEY STILL WONDER HOW HE STUMBLED INTO IRON MAIDEN... LITTLE DO THEY KNOW!
HA HA HA!

The End

THERE'S A BLOOD-SUCKER AMONG US!

REALLY, GENTLEMEN THIS 'S THE 20TH CENTURY! VAMPIRES...! HOW ABSURD CAN YOU GET? DO YOU REALIZE THE PANIC THAT WILL SPREAD IF YOU KEEP TALKING THIS WAY?
"POLICE PROMISED TO HANDLE THE MATTER AS A ROUTINE MURDER..."
LUCKY FOR US THAT MISS ALLBRIGHT HAS A STEADY HEAD ON HER SHOULDERS...
"BUT THE NEXT TIME THE FULL MOON ROSE..."
"THE VAMPIRE STRUCK AGAIN..."
"THIS TIME THE VICTIM WAS MR. WALLNER, A LAWYER..."
"MR. WALLNER WAS FOUND THE NEXT MORNING, COMPLETELY DRAINED OF BLOOD WITH THE SAME TWO NEAT LITTLE PUNCTURES IN HIS THROAT..."
THERE'S NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT! SOMEBODY IN THIS TOWN IS A VAMPIRE!
"THAT NIGHT, A SEARCH PARTY WAS ORGANIZED, CARRYING TORCHES AND ARMED WITH STEEL SPIKES, THE MEN ROAMED THE FIELDS ALL AROUND THE TOWN!"

"BUT WHEN MORNING CAME, THEY TRUDGED BACK, DISCOURAGED AND EMPTY HANDED...

WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO NOW?

PATROL THE STREETS AT NIGHT AND KEEP ALL WOMEN AND CHILDREN INDOORS!

"WHEN TWO MONTHS PASSED AND THE VAMPIRE HAD NOT STRUCK AGAIN, TENSE NERVES BEGAN TO SLACKEN! PEOPLE WALKED THE STREETS AGAIN, AND THE NIGHT PATROLS WERE DISCONTINUED!"

"IT WAS JUST ABOUT THEN THAT THIS NEW BOY CAME TO SCHOOL! HIS NAME WAS JETHROE TURNER! HE HAD A PALE FACE WITH REMARKABLY-BRILLIANT RED LIPS..."

CHILDREN, JETHROE IS YOUR NEW CLASSMATE, AND I WANT YOU ALL TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH HIM!

"I ASKED LITTLE JETHROE SOME QUESTIONS..."

JETHROE, I WANT YOU TO TELL US ALL ABOUT YOURSELF... FIRST... WHAT SORT OF WORK DOES YOUR DADDY DO? IS HE A CARPENTER? A LAWYER? A MILKMAN?

"JETHROE SAID "NO" AND THEN HE RAISED HIMSELF ON TIPTOES AND WHISPERED INTO MY EAR...

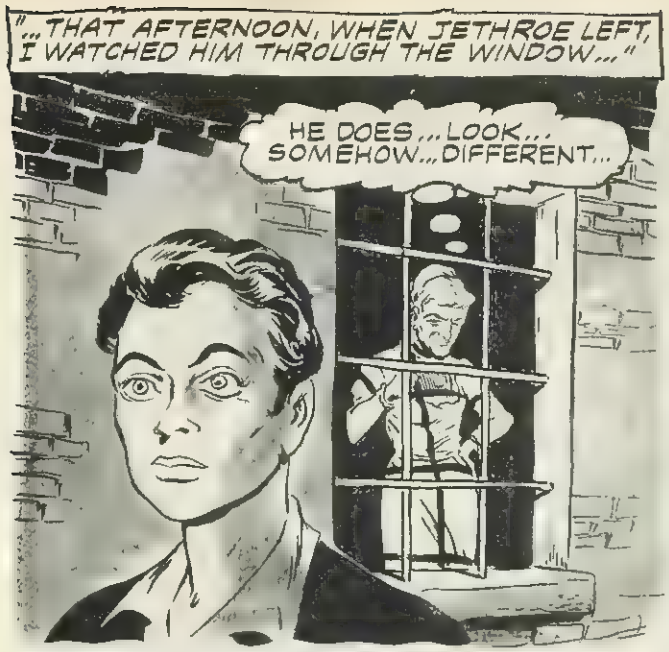
MY DADDY IS A VAMPIRE!

"I MUST CONFESS THAT I WAS TERRIBLY SHOCKED!"

YOU NAUGHTY BOY! YOU MUST **NEVER** GO AROUND SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT ABOUT YOUR DADDY!

BUT IT'S TRUE...(SOB)... IT'S REALLY TRUE!

STOP SAYING IT! I DON'T EVER WANT TO HEAR YOU SAY IT AGAIN!


"...THAT AFTERNOON, WHEN JETHROE LEFT, I WATCHED HIM THROUGH THE WINDOW..."
HE DOES... LOOK... SOMEHOW... DIFFERENT...

"WHEN EVENING CAME, I WROTE A VERY TACTFUL NOTE TO JETHROE'S FATHER, ASKING HIM TO COME SEE ME AT SCHOOL!"
THERE'LL BE TERRIBLE TROUBLE IF THE BOY GOES AROUND SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT!

"THAT NIGHT, I DREAMT THAT JETHROE AND HIS FATHER HAD CORNERED ME AT THE END OF A DEAD END STREET..."

"I SCREAMED, BUT THEY KEPT COMING CLOSER AND CLOSER..."

"AND THEN--THANK HEAVEN--I WAS AWAKE... DRENCHED IN PERSPIRATION, MY LANDLADY SHAKING MY SHOULDERS..."
MISS ALLBRIGHT, WHAT'S THE MATTER? I HEARD YOU SCREAMING... I CAME RUNNING...
N-NOTHING... JUST A VERY BAD DREAM! PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE!

"I GAVE JETHROE THE NOTE FOR HIS FATHER! A WHOLE WEEK PASSED WITHOUT AN ANSWER! IT WAS A HORRID WEEK MARRED BY MANY NIGHTMARES! I TAUGHT MECHANICALLY... HARDLY KNOWING WHAT WAS GOING ON..."
CAT... C-A-T SPELLS CAT!
VERY GOOD... NOW SPELL MAN...

"I HEARD DIMLY WHAT THE OTHER TEACHERS WERE SAYING..."
SOMETHING WRONG WITH MISS ALLBRIGHT? SHE'S BEEN LOOKING SICK LATELY?
YES...
"THEN THE FULL MOON ROSE..."
And THE VAMPIRE STRUCK AGAIN!"
"THE NEXT MORNING, JETHROE BROUGHT ME A NOTE FROM HIS FATHER..."
Thank you for your interest. I am a busy man and cannot come to school. Could you possibly spend this evening at my home?
"IT IS TIME NOW... I AM WALKING SLOWLY TOWARD JETHROE'S HOUSE WHICH STANDS BY ITSELF ON A LONELY ROAD..."
"BEFORE I HAVE A CHANCE TO RING, THE DOOR CREAKS OPEN...
Y-YOU MUST BE JETHROE'S FATHER!
MISS ALLBRIGHT? HOW NICE OF YOU TO COME! PLEASE STEP INSIDE!
MY FAMILY IS AWAY, WE TWO ARE ALONE... THE PARLOR IS THIS WAY, MISS ALLBRIGHT!
"WE ARE SEATED... AND SLOWLY, I DRAW FROM MY PURSE THE LITTLE HAND MIRROR THAT WILL TELL ME THE TRUTH...
JETHROE IS... ER... A VERY REMARKABLE BOY...

"BUT THEN..."
YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE THAT, MISS ALLBRIGHT! FOR THERE WILL BE NO REFLECTION IN THE MIRROR... AND NOW YOU WILL KNOW FOR CERTAIN I AM A VAMPIRE!
"HE TRANSFORMS FASTER THAN ANY VAMPIRE I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE! MY NIGHTMARE IS COMING TO LIFE!"
"HE LUNGES AT ME..."
NO! NO! NO!
"BUT I DODGE... AND I AM READY FOR HIM! HE RECOILS IN HORROR WHEN HE SEES HOW READY I AM..."
YES--I, TOO! I AM THE VAMPIRE OF THE TOWN! IT IS MY TOWN! ALL ITS BLOOD IS MINE! I WILL BROOK NO INTERFERENCE BY A RIVAL!
"THE SHOCK OF MY REAL IDENTITY HAS DISARMED HIM..."
"...AND MY JAGGED TEETH DO THE REST..."
SLEEP WELL, JETHROE'S DADDY... SLEEP THE DEEP SLEEP OF THE BLOODLESS!

"NOW, AS DEAR, GENTLE MISS ALLBRIGHT AGAIN, I QUIETLY LEAVE THE HOUSE, AND WALK BACK TO TOWN..."
IT'S MINE! ...ALL THE TOWN IS MINE... WHEN HIS FAMILY RETURNS, THEY WILL UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENENED AND LEAVE BEFORE DAWN...
"BUT SUDDENLY, MY NERVES SNAP UNDER THE IMPACT OF A HORRIBLE SHOCK!"
"DEMONS, FIENDS, LOATHSOME CREATURES OF THE NIGHT... THEY KEEP ON SWARMING AROUND ME!"
"SOMEHOW, I'VE BEEN FOUND OUT! SOMEHOW I'VE TRANSGRESSED A LAW OF THE HORRIBLE LIVING DEAD! THEY'VE COME TO GET ME!"
HELP! HELP!
SUDDENLY...
WATCH OUT! THERE'S A SPIKED FENCE DOWN THERE!
"THERE'S A STAKE THROUGH MY HEART... IT'S THE ONLY WAY A VAMPIRE CAN BE KILLED... DIMLY OVERHEARD, I SEE YOUNG, HORRIFIED FACES! I HEAR TREMBLING VOICES..."
W-WHY DID MISS ALLBRIGHT RUN THAT WAY? G-GOSH, I NEVER KNEW ANYONE TO BE SO SCARED BY MASKS AND COSTUMES!
"I HAVE THE STRENGTH FOR ONE LAST GRIM SMILE... WHAT A STUPID, OLD FOOL I HAVE BEEN! THE WEEK THAT I SPENT IN A DAZE, WAITING FOR AN ANSWER FROM JETHROE'S FATHER, WAS THE WEEK BEFORE HALLOWEEN!!"
THE END

CULT of EVIL

THE ANCIENT AND TERRIBLE ART OF THUGEE IS A SIMPLE FORM OF MURDER! THE THUG DEFTLY SNAPS THE NECK OF HIS VICTIM WITH A LONG SILK HANDKERCHIEF! NOT ONCE IN A THOUSAND TIMES CAN THE MAN MARKED FOR DEATH ESCAPE THE HANDS OF A SKILLFUL PRACTIONER OF THE ANCIENT ART! BUT ONE MAN DID ESCAPE, AND THEREBY HANGS THIS SPINE CHILLING TALE OF THE REVENGE OF KALI...

SAM WILLOWS, IN INDIA ON BUSINESS, WALKS A DARK STREET IN BOMBAY! OUT OF THE SHADOWS BEHIND HIM...

HO, THIS ONE LOOKS WEALTHY! I WILL HAVE HIS PURSE IN A MOMENT!

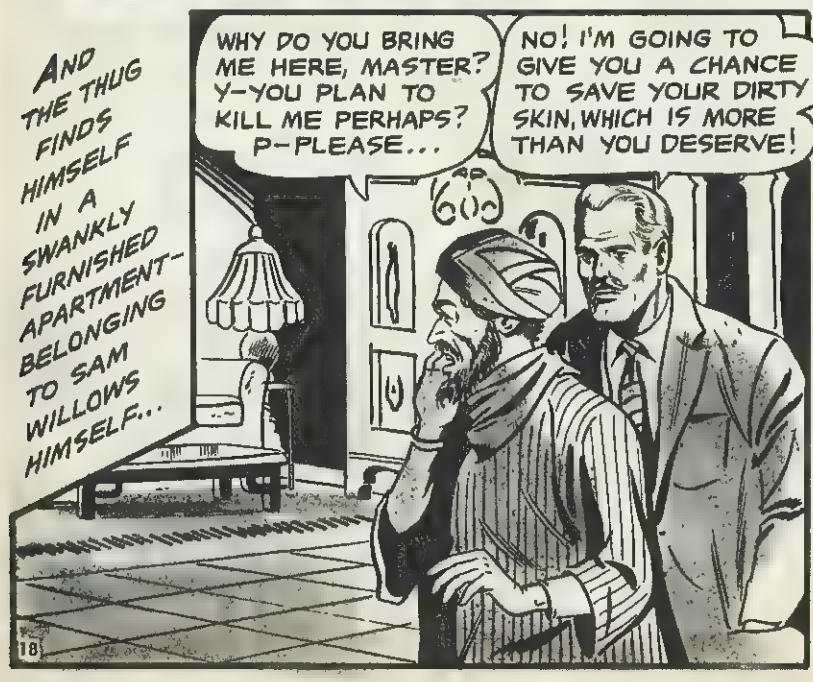
THE HANDKERCHIEF OF THE THUG FLICKS AROUND THE THROAT OF THE WHITE MAN, DEADLY AS A STRIKING COBRA...

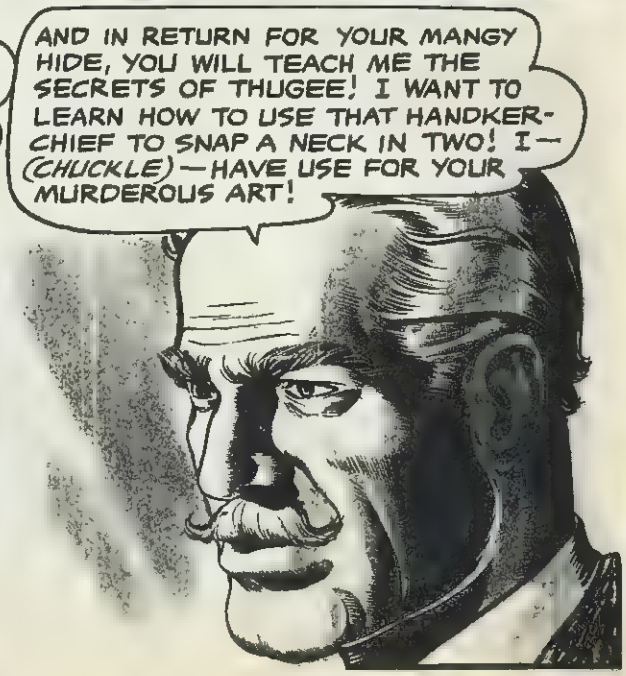
UHHHHHHH-GUUUUUU-

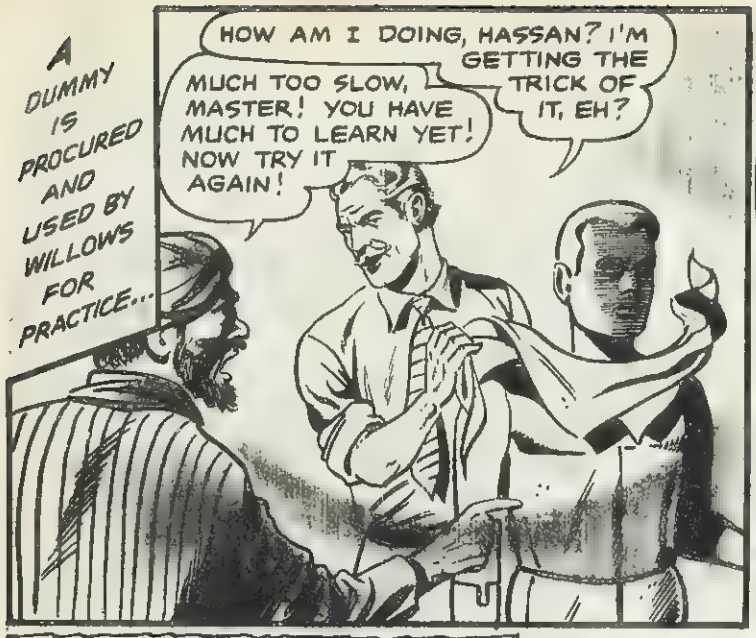
YOU WILL HAVE NO TIME TO SCREAM, FOOL! NOW ONE LITTLE TWIST AND-CRACK GOES YOUR NECK!

BUT THE ASTOUNDED THUG FINDS THAT HE IS NOT BEING TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE AFTER ALL! HE IS SHOVED INTO A DARK COURT-YARD...

AND THE THUG FINDS HIMSELF IN A SWANKLY FURNISHED APARTMENT-BELONGING TO SAM WILLOWS HIMSELF...






A DUMMY IS PROCURED AND USED BY WILLOWS FOR PRACTICE...
HOW AM I DOING, HASSAN? I'M GETTING THE TRICK OF IT, EH?
MUCH TOO SLOW, MASTER! YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN YET! NOW TRY IT AGAIN!

BUT AT LAST THE DAY ARRIVES...
OH, YES, THE MONEY! IN JUST A MOMENT, HASSAN!
I CAN TEACH YOU NO MORE, MASTER! YOU ARE NOW AN EXPERT! THE MONEY YOU PROMISED ME, PLEASE!

BUT WILLOWS HAS ANOTHER SORT OF PAYMENT IN MIND FOR HASSAN...
LET ME TRY IT ONCE MORE! ON A REAL PERSON THIS TIME!
UHH—WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MASTER? NO...

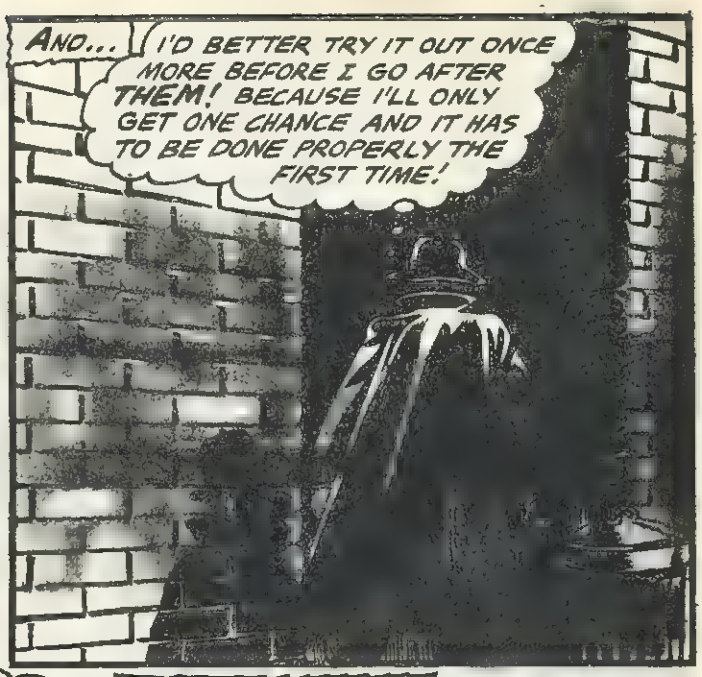
UHHHH—GUUUUU—
YOU TAUGHT ME WELL, HASSAN! NOW JUST A TWIST OF THE HANDKERCHIEF, AND...

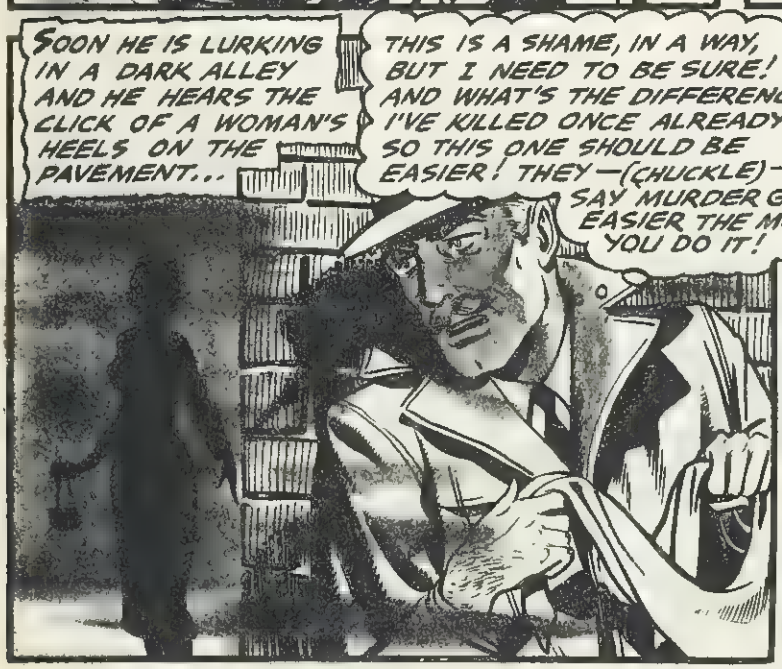
LATER, AS SAM WILLOWS PREPARES TO LEAVE BOMBAY...
YOU TAUGHT ME TOO WELL, MY POOR FRIEND! BUT NOW I MUST LEAVE YOU! I'LL HAVE CERTAIN OTHER FRIENDS OF MINE DISPOSE OF YOUR BODY—IN THE RIVER!

A FEW HOURS LATER AND HE IS WELL ON HIS WAY BACK TO THE UNITED STATES...
WHAT A SURPRISE RALPH AND DEBRA ARE GOING TO GET! THEY THOUGHT I WAS A WEAK SPINED FOOL, STEPPING OUT SO HE COULD MARRY MY WIFE! THEY'LL LEARN DIFFERENTLY!

AT LAGUARDIA FIELD IN NEW YORK...
I HOPE THEY'VE BEEN VERY HAPPY SINCE I GAVE HER THE DIVORCE — BECAUSE NOW I'M GOING TO STOP ALL THAT!

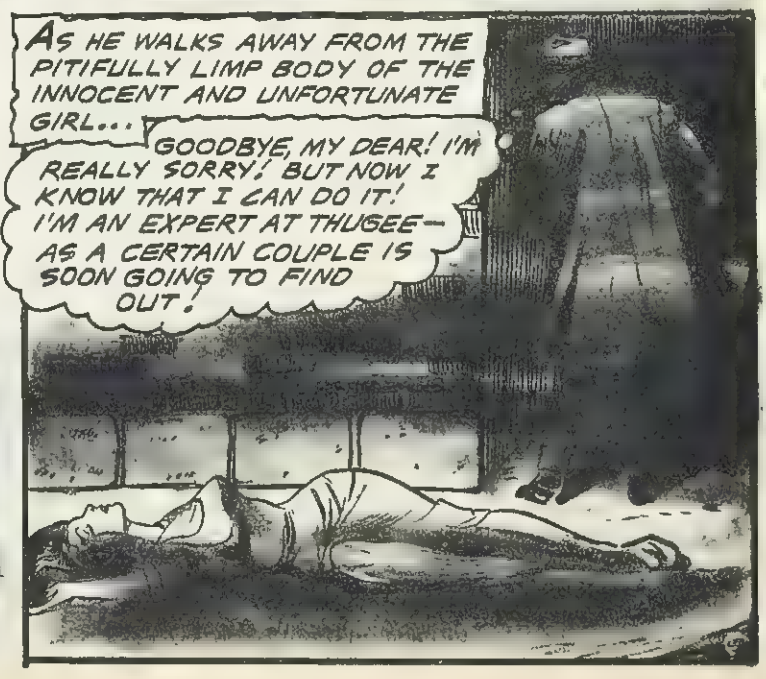
LATER, AT A HOTEL, HE PRACTICES WITH THE DEADLY BIT OF SILK...
HMMM — I WONDER IF I DON'T NEED MORE PRACTICE? I DON'T WANT TO FAIL!

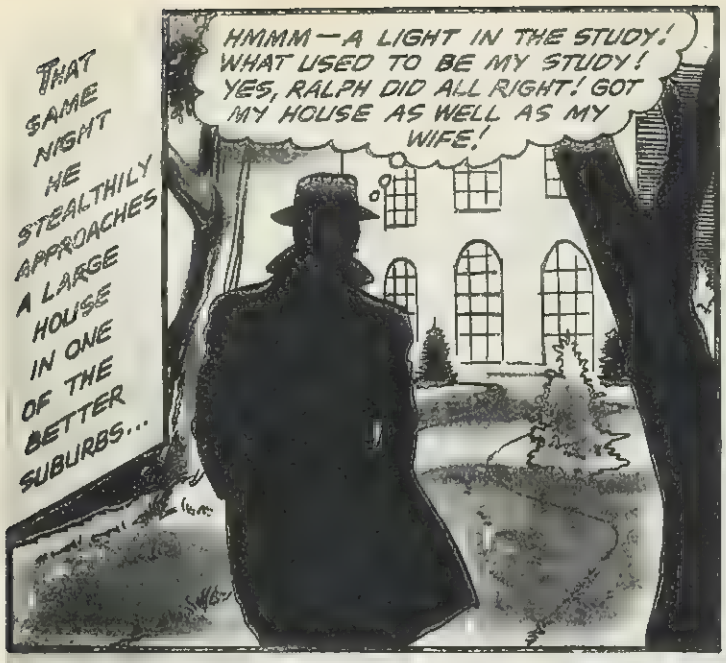

AND...
I'D BETTER TRY IT OUT ONCE MORE BEFORE I GO AFTER THEM! BECAUSE I'LL ONLY GET ONE CHANCE AND IT HAS TO BE DONE PROPERLY THE FIRST TIME!


SOON HE IS LURKING IN A DARK ALLEY AND HE HEARS THE CLICK OF A WOMAN'S HEELS ON THE PAVEMENT...
THIS IS A SHAME, IN A WAY, BUT I NEED TO BE SURE! AND WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? I'VE KILLED ONCE ALREADY, SO THIS ONE SHOULD BE EASIER! THEY —(CHUCKLE)— SAY MURDER GETS EASIER THE MORE YOU DO IT!

QUICK AS A FLASH...
THIS WON'T HURT, GIRL! JUST A SIMPLE TWIST OF THE HANDKERCHIEF AND...
OWWWWW—

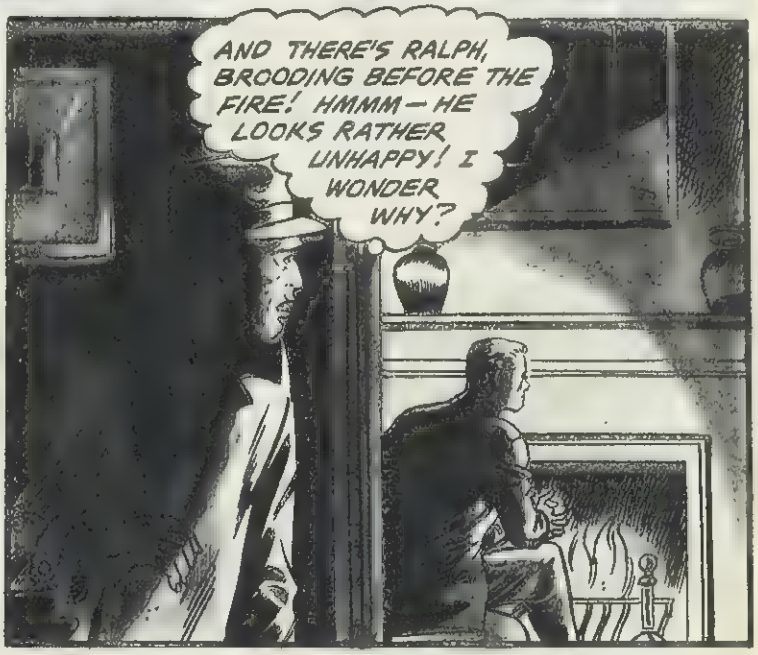
YOUR NECK CRACKS SO EASILY! LIKE THIS! BUT HOW I WISH YOU WERE MY BELOVED EX-WIFE!
EEEEKKKKKK— UHHHHHH—


AS HE WALKS AWAY FROM THE PITIFULLY LIMP BODY OF THE INNOCENT AND UNFORTUNATE GIRL...
GOODBYE, MY DEAR! I'M REALLY SORRY! BUT NOW I KNOW THAT I CAN DO IT! I'M AN EXPERT AT THUGEE— AS A CERTAIN COUPLE IS SOON GOING TO FIND OUT!


THAT SAME NIGHT HE STEALTHILY APPROACHES A LARGE HOUSE IN ONE OF THE BETTER SUBURBS...
HMMM—A LIGHT IN THE STUDY! WHAT USED TO BE MY STUDY! YES, RALPH DID ALL RIGHT! GOT MY HOUSE AS WELL AS MY WIFE!

AND THERE'S DEBRA GETTING READY FOR BED! GOOD! THAT MAKES THINGS JUST THAT MUCH EASIER!

GOOD THING I'M SO FAMILIAR WITH THE HOUSE! BUT THEN I—(CHUCKLE)—HAVE HAD THIS IN MIND FOR A LONG TIME!


AND THERE'S RALPH, BROODING BEFORE THE FIRE! HMMM—HE LOOKS RATHER UNHAPPY! I WONDER WHY?

GENTLY NOW! A HANDSOME DEVIL, RALPH! THAT'S WHY DEBRA DIVORCED ME AND MARRIED HIM! BUT IN JUST ONE SECOND HE WON'T BE SO...

...HANDSOME! AHHH—GOT YOU, RALPH! LIKE IT?
UHHHHHHHHHH—

IT IS OVER IN A MOMENT...
SO MUCH FOR YOU, RALPH! YOU'LL NEVER STEAL ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE! BUT NOW FOR DEBRA!

SHE HAS TO GO ALSO! I HATE HER NOW AS MUCH AS I LOVED HER ONCE!

I CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR THE MOMENT WHEN I SLIP THE HANDKERCHIEF AROUND HER LOVELY NECK! THAT LONG AND BEAUTIFUL NECK OF HERS, SO SOFT! LIKE A SWAN...

SOFTLY HE OPENS THE DOOR TO DEBRA'S BEDROOM...
HMMM—SHE ISN'T IN BED AFTER ALL! WELL, NO MATTER! I'LL SLIP QUIETLY BEHIND HER AND...

THEN HE GETS THE SHOCK OF HIS LIFE...
HELLO, MR. WILLOWS! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU! HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR WORK DOWNSTAIRS?
HUH! Y—YOU'RE NOT DEBRA! WHO ARE YOU? W—WHERE IS SHE?

YOUR FORMER WIFE LEFT THIS NOTE FOR YOU! I THINK YOU'LL BE SURPRISED WHEN YOU READ IT!
A NOTE? BUT WHERE IS DEBRA?

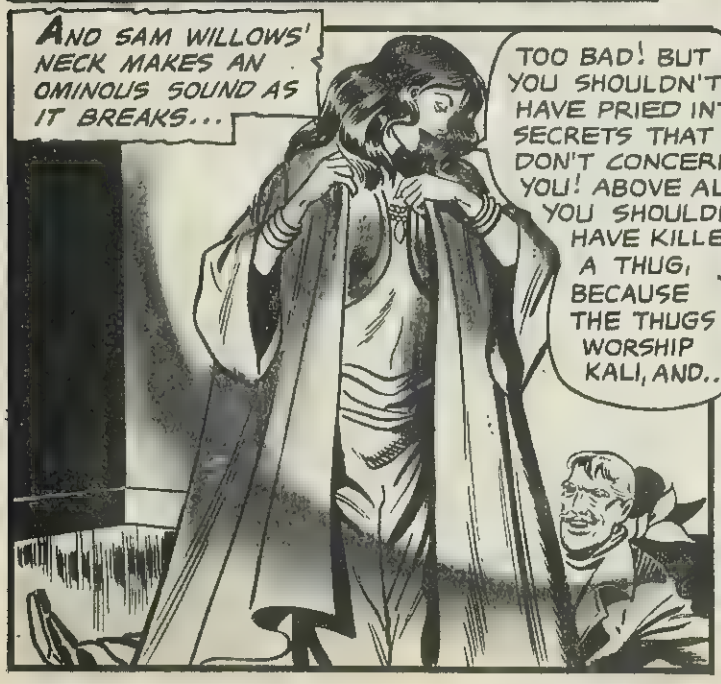
ANOTHER SHOCK...
GREAT SCOTT! THIS IS FOR RALPH, NOT FOR ME! S—SHE'S LEFT HIM! SHE'S GOING TO INDIA TO TRY AND FIND ME! AND I JUST LEFT INDIA...
I KNOW!

I KNOW ALL ABOUT INDIA AND YOU, MR. WILLOWS! I KNOW EVERYTHING!
SORRY, BUT I'M NOT EVEN INTERESTED IN WHO YOU ARE NOW! I MUST GET BACK TO INDIA AT ONCE! FIND DEBRA!

GOODBYE, WHOEVER YOU ARE! ONE OF RALPH'S GIRLS, I SUPPOSE! WELL, HE'S DEAD, AND...
AND YOU WILL BE DEAD, TOO— IN A MOMENT!

YOUR TURN NOW, MR. WILLOWS!
HUH! W—WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YAAAA—UHHHHHHHH—

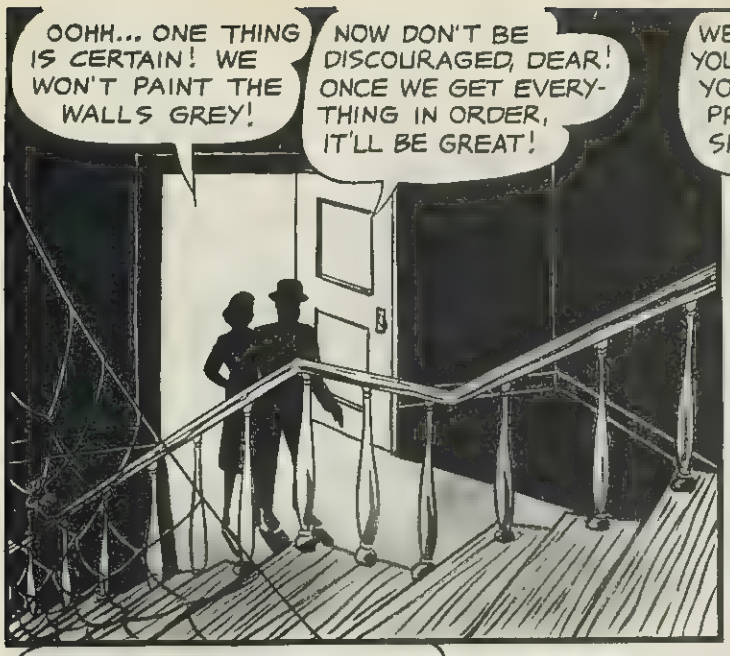

AND SAM WILLOWS' NECK MAKES AN OMINOUS SOUND AS IT BREAKS...
TOO BAD! BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE PRIED INTO SECRETS THAT DON'T CONCERN YOU! ABOVE ALL YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE KILLED A THUG, BECAUSE THE THUGS WORSHIP KALI, AND...

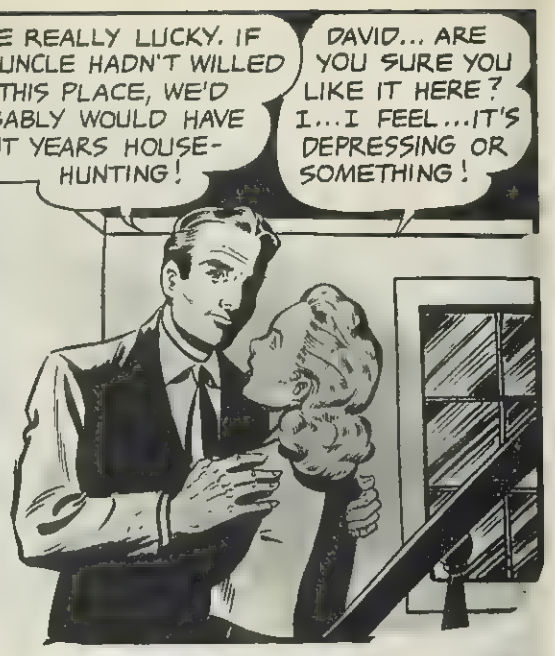
I AM KALI!
The End

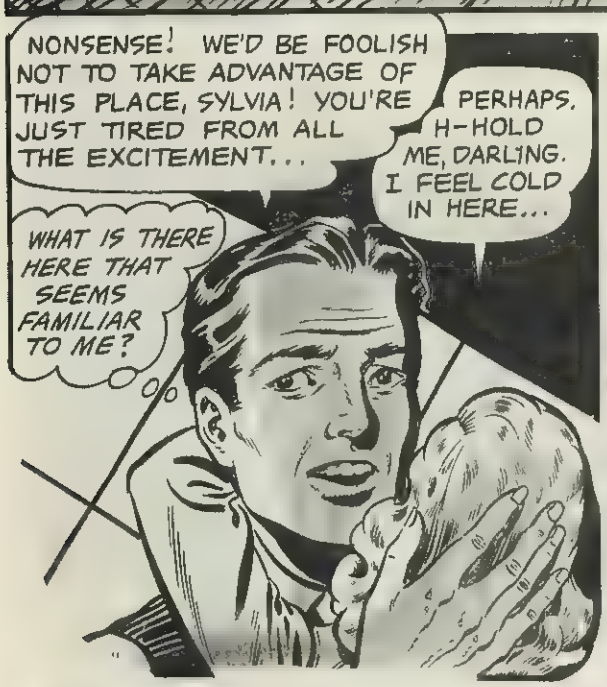
HAD THIS MAN LIVED TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO? WHO SPLIT HIS CONSCIOUSNESS AND BROUGHT HIM BACK ACROSS THE EDGE OF TIME, CALLING HIM TO A GRAVE WHILE HE YET LIVED? WHAT HOLD OVER HIM DID THE SWAMP HAVE? READ THE TALE OF THIS NIGHTMARE... IF YOU DARE!

SCREAMS in the SWAMP

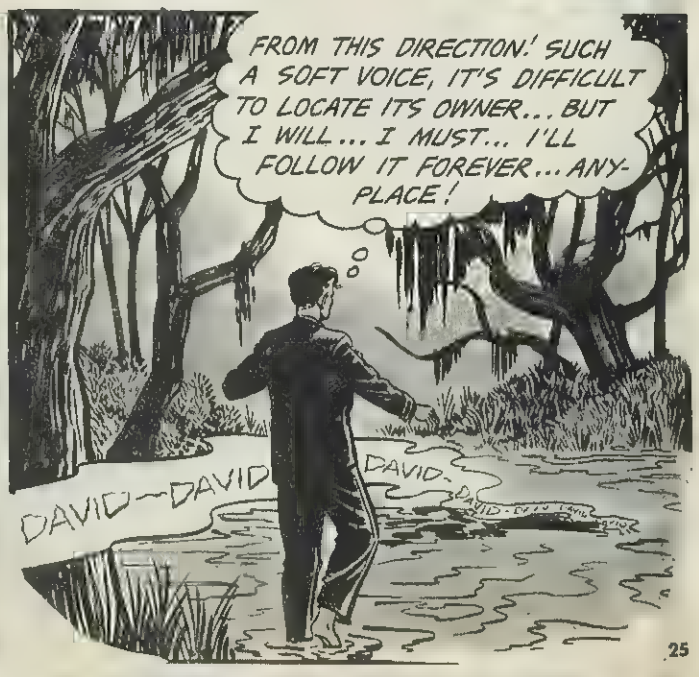
DAVID AND SYLVIA WERE YOUNG AND HAPPY. THEY HAD NO THOUGHT OF THE TERROR THAT WAS TO BE THE DAY THAT THEY TOOK OVER THEIR PROPERTY AT CRESTWOOD. THERE WAS NO HINT OF THE FEAR THAT WOULD BESET THEM AS THEY DROVE UP TO THE OLD ESTATE THAT SOLVED THEIR HOUSING PROBLEM...







SYLVIA'S APPREHENSION WAS CONTAGIOUS... DAVID, TOO, SUDDENLY FELT AN UNEASY SENSE OF EXPECTATION. EVEN AFTER HIS WIFE SLIPPED OFF INTO RESTLESS SLUMBER, DAVID STARED INTO THE DARKNESS OF THEIR ROOM, LOOKING AND WAITING FOR SOMETHING UNKNOWN, YET FEARFUL...



I'M GETTING CLOSER TO IT... SUCH A FAMILIAR VOICE! WHO IN MY LIFE HAS SPOKEN MY NAME THAT WAY?

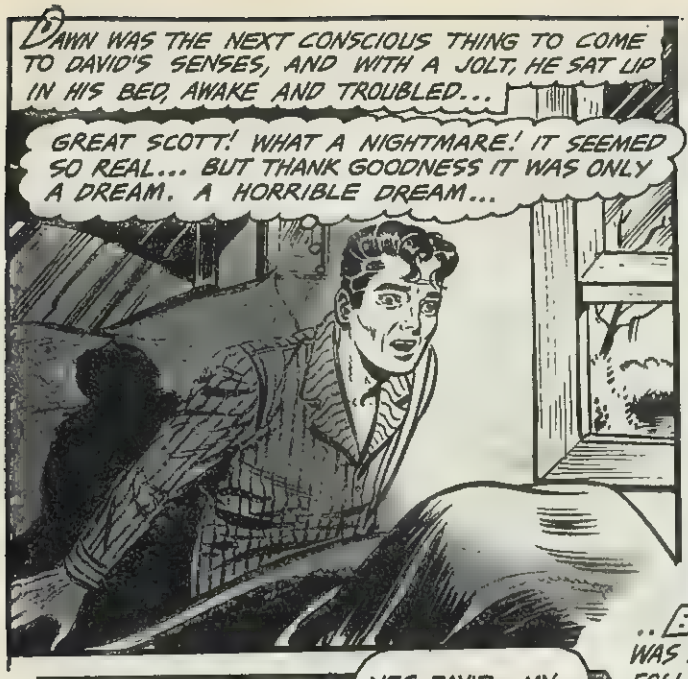
S-SO THERE YOU ARE! WHO ARE YOU? I-I SHOULD KNOW...
OH, DAVID, DEAREST! I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR YOU TO COME BACK! BUT I KNEW YOU WOULD, MY LOVE! I NEVER GAVE UP HOPE!

DAVID STARED AT THE BEAUTIFUL SPECTRE IN DISBELIEF... SURELY HE KNEW HER... ONCE...
DON'T LOOK SO STARTLED, BELOVED. COME TO ME!
I-I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, YET I'M CERTAIN WE HAVE MET BEFORE...

DON'T GO! DON'T LEAVE ME UNTIL I DISCOVER WHO YOU ARE! PLEASE...

I MUST GO BACK. BUT WE HAVE FOUND EACH OTHER AGAIN, AND WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU. TAKE ME WITH YOU NOW!

SHE'S GONE! WHY DID SHE HAVE TO LEAVE ME? COME BACK! COME BACK! I MUST BE WITH YOU... AND REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE...


DAWN WAS THE NEXT CONSCIOUS THING TO COME TO DAVID'S SENSES, AND WITH A JOLT, HE SAT UP IN HIS BED, AWAKE AND TROUBLED...
GREAT SCOTT! WHAT A NIGHTMARE! IT SEEMED SO REAL... BUT THANK GOODNESS IT WAS ONLY A DREAM. A HORRIBLE DREAM...

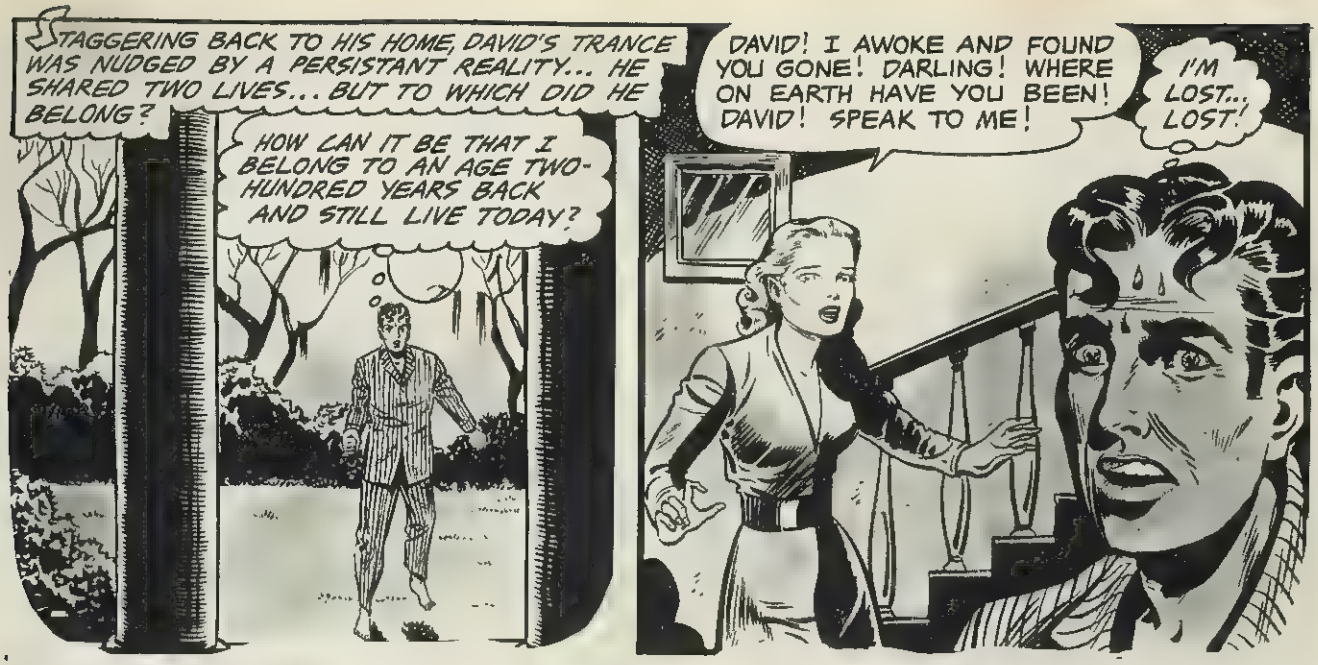
MY FEET! DRIED MUD! SWAMP MUD! I WALKED IN MY SLEEP! SYLVIA MUST NEVER KNOW OF THIS— SHE'D BE FRANTIC!

GOOD MORNING, DEAR. FEELING BETTER TODAY?
YES, DAVID. MY, YOU STILL LOOK TIRED! HERE, HAVE SOME COFFEE— IT WILL WAKE YOU UP!

..BUT THAT NIGHT, DAVID WAS AGAIN COMPELLED TO FOLLOW THE LURING VOICE AGAIN, AND ONCE MORE HE HURRIED TO THE SWAMP...
I WAITED FOR THE MOON TO COME TO THE TOP OF THE TREES BEFORE CALLING YOU, BELOVED.
AT LAST! YOU KEPT ME WAITING FOR YOUR CALL!

YOU WAITED ONLY HOURS, I HAVE WAITED OVER TWO-HUNDRED YEARS FOR YOU, DEAREST ONE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL YOU SAY, BUT IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME... I WANT TO BE WITH YOU... FOREVER!

WHY DO YOU FADE AWAY FROM ME? TAKE ME WITH YOU WHEREVER IT IS YOU GO. I CAN'T BEAR TO BE PARTED FROM YOU...
SOON. IT IS NOT YET TIME. YOU MUST BE VERY PATIENT... BUT SOON... SOON...



DAZED AND STILL IN A STATE OR UNREALITY, DAVID STUMBLED TO HIS ROOM... FRIGHTENED AND UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND, SYLVIA HOVERED OVER HIM UNTIL SUDDENLY THE TORTURED MAN ONCE MORE AWOKE.

IT WAS THE LAST NIGHT SYLVIA AND DAVID WOULD SPEND IN THE HOUSE OF DREAD, BUT THEIR EXIT WAS TO BE FAR DIFFERENT THAN EITHER HAD EVER DREAMED...

DAVID... DAVID...

YOU HERE! I WAITED FOR YOUR CALL. I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T SUMMON ME TONIGHT! WAIT...I WILL COME WITH YOU!

DAVID! WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO? **DAVID!** WAKE UP! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? ANSWER ME!

NOW I KNOW! MY LOVE THOUGHT I HAD GONE AWAY WITHOUT HER! SHE KILLED HERSELF IN THE SWAMP! BUT NOW I'M BACK... AND SHE'S COME FOR ME SO WE CAN BE TOGETHER AT LONG LAST!

... I KNEW YOU WOULD REMEMBER SOONER OR LATER, BELOVED!

DAVID! YOU'RE RAVING! IS SOMEONE ELSE IN THIS ROOM? **TELL ME...**

WHO ARE YOU, WRETCH? OUT OF MY WAY! NOTHING CAN HOLD ME BACK NOW...

HURRY, DEAREST!

DAVID! DON'T...

ONCE AGAIN DAVID OBEDIENTLY FOLLOWED THE VOICE, AND THIS TIME HE WADED DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE SWAMP... THE VOICE CALLED AND HE FOLLOWED! BUT SUDDENLY HE REMEMBERED...

SYLVIA! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO MY WIFE!

TOO LATE! YOU MUST STAY HERE WITH ME!

...REINCARNATED, OR THE VICTIM OF A GHOSTLY LOVE, WHO CAN TELL, BUT A MAN WAS DOOMED — DEATH, OR WORSE WAS THE FATE AWAITING A MAN WHO ANSWERED A CALL—THAT CAME ACROSS THE THRESHOLD OF TIME, AND FROM THE LIPS OF ONE LONG DEAD...

THE END

DEAREST, DEADEST DUMMY

HE WAS AN UGLY LITTLE MAN, UNWANTED AND UNLOVED, AND SURROUNDED BY SCORES OF LOVELY BUT LIFELESS WOMEN! LITTLE WONDER THAT IN HIS LONELY HEART HE BUILT A KINGDOM OF HIS OWN, WHERE HE WAS KING, AND NO MAN COULD INTERFERE WITH THE STRANGE LOVES OF EDWIN BROODE...

EDWIN BROODE, AGE FORTY-FIVE, IS INVOLVED IN A PECULIAR ROMANCE...

YOU'RE LOVELY, LAURA! NO GIRL CAN COMPARE WITH YOU! AND YOU'RE MINE FOREVER! NOBODY CAN EVER—(CHUCKLE)—TAKE YOU AWAY FROM ME!

COME NOW, LAURA! TIME TO PUT YOU AWAY FOR THE NIGHT! BUT WE HAVE OUR LITTLE SECRET, DON'T WE? HAH-HAH!

THERE'S BROODE AGAIN, TALKING TO HIS DUMMIES! SOMETHING MIGHTY QUEER ABOUT THAT CHARACTER!
HE'S JUST A LONELY OLD MAN! AND HE IS THE BEST WINDOW DRESSER IN TOWN! HE NEEDS A WIFE, BUT HE'S— SO UGLY!
NO WOMAN WOULD MARRY HIM! AND THOUGH I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM, SOMETIMES HE GIVES ME THE SHIVERS! I OFTEN WONDER WHAT HE THINKS ABOUT AND DOES WHEN HE'S ALONE!
WHILE IN THE STORE-ROOM IS THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION...
TIME TO GO NOW, MY SWEET! WE HAVE A DATE TONIGHT, REMEMBER! JUST THE TWO OF US! THERE'LL BE CHAMPAGNE, TOO!
GOODNIGHT, HENRY! SEE YOU IN THE MORNING!
GOODNIGHT, MR. BROODE! HOPE YOU AREN'T—(HAH-HAH)— TAKING ANY OF THE STORE HOME IN THAT SUITCASE!
LATER, IN BROODE'S APARTMENT...
THERE WE ARE, LAURA! ALMOST READY! AND YOU LOOK RAVISHING! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A GRAND TIME TONIGHT, JUST THE TWO OF US!
HAVE SOME MORE OF THE BUBBLY, LAURA! A GOOD VINTAGE THAT I GOT ESPECIALLY FOR YOU! HAH— NOW WOULDN'T THE GIRLS AT THE STORE BE JEALOUS IF THEY KNEW!

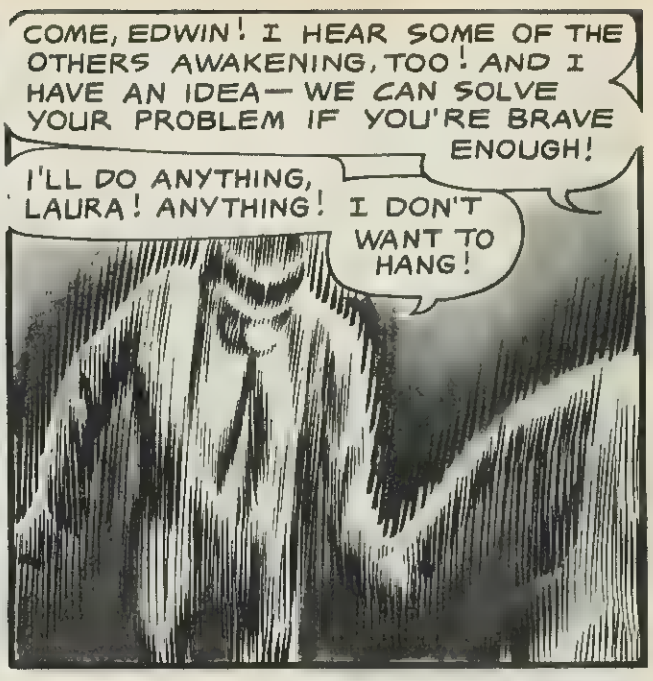
AND NEXT MORNING...
GOOD MORNING, MR. BROODE! SLEEP WELL?
FINE, THANK YOU!
TIME FOR WORK NOW, LAURA! BUT THERE WILL BE OTHER EVENINGS! MANY, MANY OF THEM! BUT YOU MUST— (CHUCKLE)— NEVER TELL ANYONE!
BUT THAT EVENING...
AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK LATE TONIGHT, BROODE! I WANT THAT NEW WEDDING GROUP DISPLAY FINISHED BY MORNING!
SURE, MR. THOMAS! I DON'T MIND WORKING LATE!
AFTER A WEARY NIGHT...
MIDNIGHT, LAURA! I MUST BE GOING NOW! I'LL SEE YOU IN THE MORNING, DARLING!
BUT AS BROODE IS ABOUT TO LEAVE...
DON'T GO, EDWIN! STAY WITH ME!
WHA... SOMEONE SPOKE! W—WHO...
Y—YOU! BUT YOU CAN'T! I MEAN, IT WAS ONLY A GAME! HOW...
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, EDWIN! YOU MUSTN'T BE AFRAID OF ME! I'M YOUR LAURA!

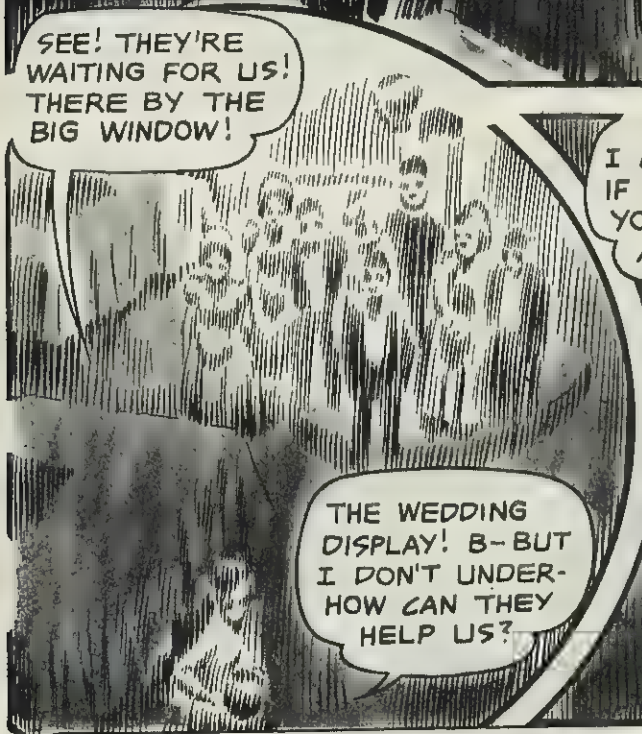
BUT BEFORE LAURA CAN EXPLAIN ANYTHING...
AHHHH—HELP! YOU'RE KILLING ME! EEEEEEE—
THOSE SCREAMS! TERRIBLE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
COME ON! THE OTHER DUMMIES ARE ALIVE NOW!
AS IN THE SHADOWS, MURDER IS BEING DONE...
EEEEEEEE—AHHHH—
KILL HIM! TEAR HIM TO PIECES!
THIS WILL PAY FOR ALL THE TIMES HE WAS CRUEL TO US!
YES! WE HATE HIM!
EDWIN BROODE, HIS BRAIN SWIRLING, IS A FRIGHTENED WITNESS...
QUIET, EDWIN! THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO NOW! ANYWAY HE DESERVED IT! HE USED TO SMASH US WHEN NOBODY WAS AROUND!
STOP THEM! THIS IS TERRIBLE! THEY'VE KILLED HIM!
WE CAN COME ALIVE ONE NIGHT A YEAR, EDWIN! FROM MIDNIGHT UNTIL DAWN! IN THAT LITTLE TIME WE HAVE TO LIVE A WHOLE YEAR! DEATH, LOVE, EVERYTHING!
INCREDIBLE! YOU'RE REALLY ALIVE! AND ALL THE TIME I THOUGHT...
WITH THE KISS OF LAURA ON HIS LIPS, EDWIN BROODE FEELS THE WARM RED DARKNESS CLOSE IN! HIS BRAIN EXPLODES AND DOWN AND DOWN HE GOES...
YOU THOUGHT IT WAS ONLY A GAME, EDWIN? BUT I KNEW ALL THE TIME, THOUGH I COULDN'T SPEAK! I LOVE YOU, TOO, EDWIN!
Y-YOU REALLY CAN LOVE ME!
F-FEEL SO FUNNY! I—I—FAINTING! NO—CAN'T—MUST—
YES DEAR... COME WITH ME... WE ARE WAITING!

SLOWLY THE HAZE LIFTED...
W—WHAT IS HAPPENING... WHERE ARE WE? THIS ISN'T THE STORE!
YES, DEAR EDWIN, IT IS... BUT FOR THIS NIGHT IT IS OUR PALACE.
EDWIN REVELED IN A FEELING AKIN TO MADNESS...
DARLING, IT ALMOST SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE! BUT FOR ONE NIGHT LIKE THIS I WOULD GLADLY WAIT THE YEAR!
YOU HAVE BEEN PATIENT... AND GOOD TO ME, AND ALL OF US, THAT IS WHY YOU ARE HERE!
LET US TOAST THE NIGHT... THIS NIGHT THAT IS LIFE TO ALL OF US... AND ALSO, DEAR FRIENDS... TO EDWIN, WHOSE LOVE AND CARE HAS KEPT US ALL SO WELL!
SPEECH! OH, DO SAY SOMETHING!
YES, TALK TO US!
B—BUT I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY! JUST THAT I AM SO GLAD FOR ALL OF YOU. AND MOST FOR LAURA...
THE REVELRY CONTINUED... THE MUSIC AND THE LAUGHTER, UNTIL...
OH! TO YOUR PLACES... THE DAWN IS COMING... IT WILL BE LIGHT IN MOMENTS...
GOODBYE, EDWIN, DEAR... TILL NEXT YEAR! TILL NEXT YEAR! TILL NEXT YEAR...

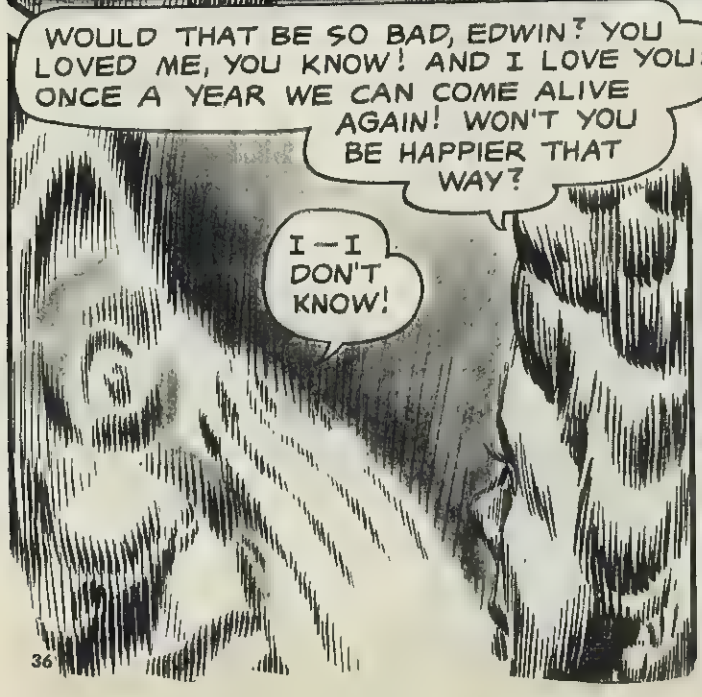
WITH THE FIRST RAYS OF THE SUN...
HUH! WHERE AM...OH, I REMEMBER! BUT IT COULDN'T REALLY HAVE HAPPENED! I MUST HAVE FALLEN, HIT MY HEAD, AND HAD A NIGHTMARE!
AND IS THIS PART OF THE NIGHTMARE, EDWIN BROODE?
D-DEAD! THEN IT R-REALLY HAPPENED! THOSE DUMMIES, LAURA, WERE ALIVE! I DIDN'T DREAM IT!
GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! THEY'LL THINK I DID IT! THEY'LL NEVER BELIEVE THE STORY ABOUT THE DUMMIES! THEY'LL SAY I'M A MURDERER!
W-WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I CAN'T GIVE MYSELF UP! THEY'LL HANG ME FOR SURE!
FINALLY EDWIN BROODE KNOWS WHAT HE MUST DO! THERE IS ONLY ONE PERSON WHO CAN HELP HIM— A DUMMY...
MAYBE LAURA CAN HELP! IF SHE WILL — WILL ONLY COME TO LIFE AGAIN! THERE'S NO ONE ELSE!
HE GAINS ENTRANCE THROUGH A WINDOW, AND...
LAURA! CAN YOU HEAR ME? YOU MUST — YOU MUST HELP ME! THEY THINK I MURDERED THAT MAN, LAURA! PLEASE, LAURA, SPEAK TO ME! LAURA...

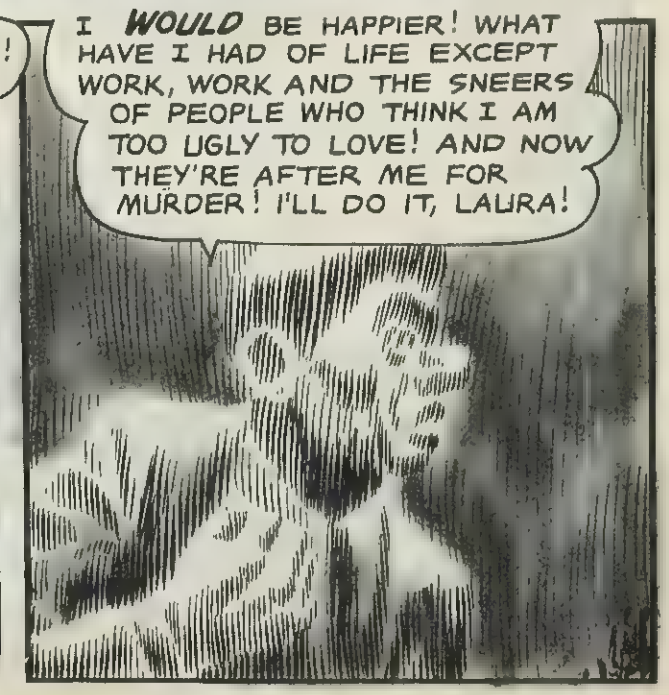
EDWIN! I'M BACK! SOMEHOW I'VE COME BACK TO LIFE BEFORE TIME! MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU NEED ME SO!
THANK GOODNESS!

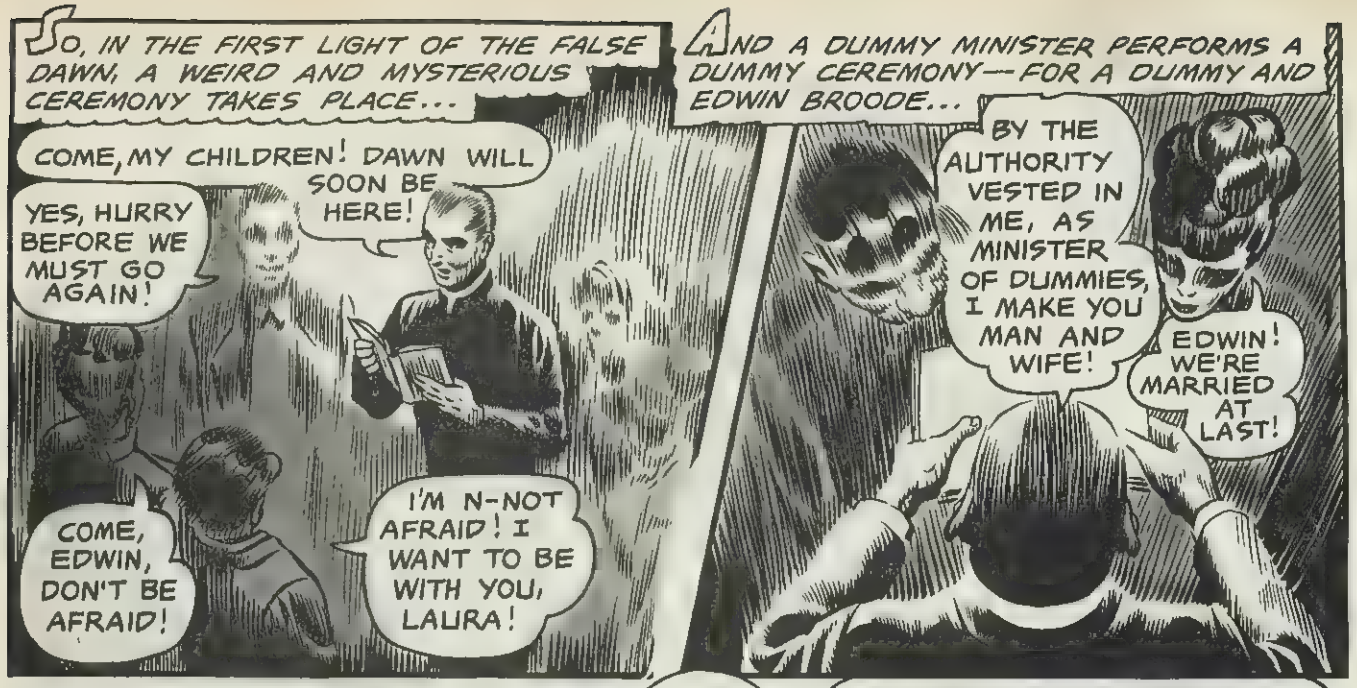

COME, EDWIN! I HEAR SOME OF THE OTHERS AWAKENING, TOO! AND I HAVE AN IDEA— WE CAN SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM IF YOU'RE BRAVE ENOUGH!
I'LL DO ANYTHING, LAURA! ANYTHING!
I DON'T WANT TO HANG!

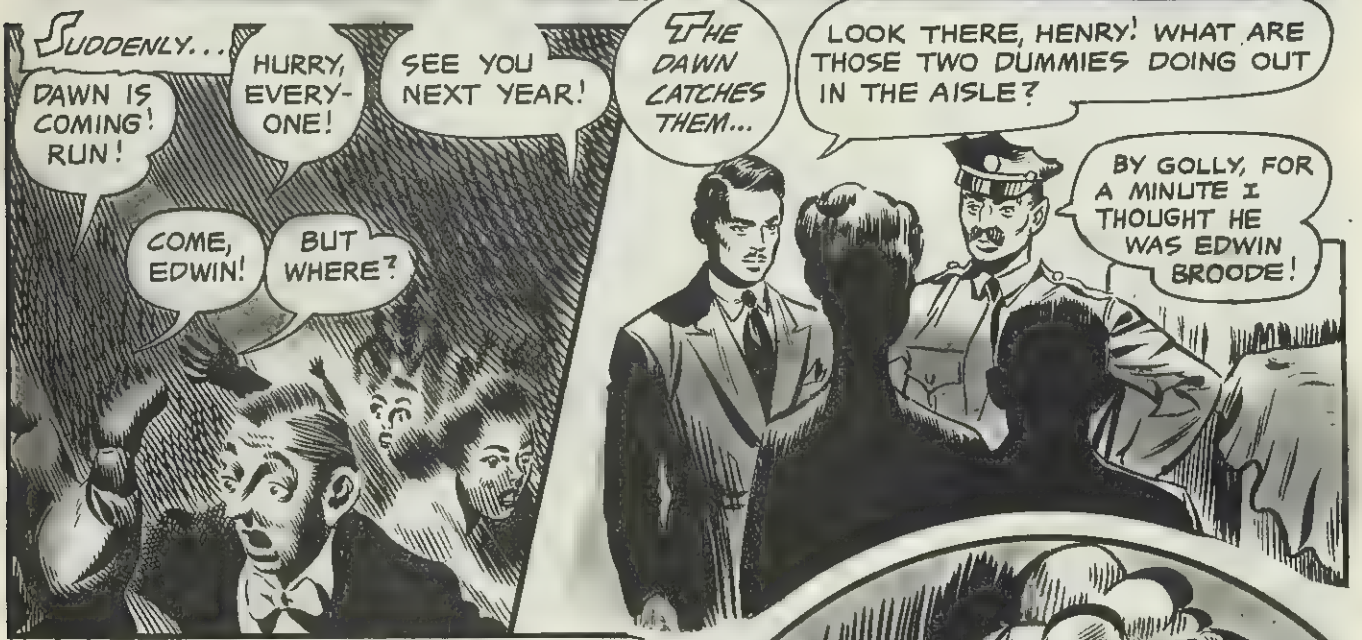

SEE! THEY'RE WAITING FOR US! THERE BY THE BIG WINDOW!
THE WEDDING DISPLAY! B-BUT I DON'T UNDER- HOW CAN THEY HELP US?

I CAN SAVE YOU, EDWIN, IF WE'RE MARRIED! YOU'LL HAVE TO BECOME A DUMMY, TOO!
ME— A DUMMY!


WOULD THAT BE SO BAD, EDWIN? YOU LOVED ME, YOU KNOW! AND I LOVE YOU! ONCE A YEAR WE CAN COME ALIVE AGAIN! WON'T YOU BE HAPPIER THAT WAY?
I—I DON'T KNOW!


I WOULD BE HAPPIER! WHAT HAVE I HAD OF LIFE EXCEPT WORK, WORK AND THE SNEERS OF PEOPLE WHO THINK I AM TOO UGLY TO LOVE! AND NOW THEY'RE AFTER ME FOR MURDER! I'LL DO IT, LAURA!


SO, IN THE FIRST LIGHT OF THE FALSE DAWN, A WEIRD AND MYSTERIOUS CEREMONY TAKES PLACE...
COME, MY CHILDREN! DAWN WILL SOON BE HERE!
YES, HURRY BEFORE WE MUST GO AGAIN!
COME, EDWIN, DON'T BE AFRAID!
I'M N-NOT AFRAID! I WANT TO BE WITH YOU, LAURA!
AND A DUMMY MINISTER PERFORMS A DUMMY CEREMONY—FOR A DUMMY AND EDWIN BROODE...
BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME, AS MINISTER OF DUMMIES, I MAKE YOU MAN AND WIFE!
EDWIN! WE'RE MARRIED AT LAST!


SUDDENLY...
DAWN IS COMING! RUN!
HURRY, EVERY-ONE!
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!
COME, EDWIN!
BUT WHERE?
THE DAWN CATCHES THEM...
LOOK THERE, HENRY! WHAT ARE THOSE TWO DUMMIES DOING OUT IN THE AISLE?
BY GOLLY, FOR A MINUTE I THOUGHT HE WAS EDWIN BROODE!

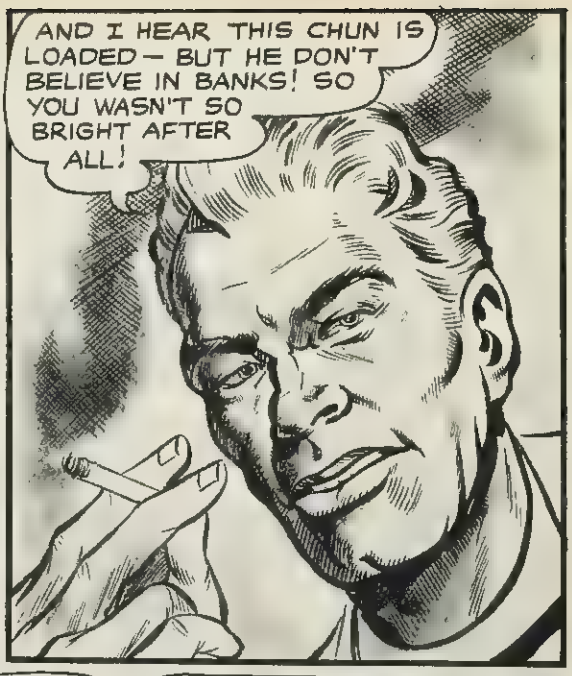
YOU'RE RIGHT! HE LOOKS AMAZINGLY LIKE THAT MURDERER!
ONLY A COINCIDENCE, SIR! EDWIN BROODE IS NO DUMMY! HAH—HAH— HE'S ELUDED EVERY COP IN TOWN SO FAR! I BET WE NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN!
AND NO ONE EVER DID SEE EDWIN BROODE AGAIN! BUT IF YOU GO TO A CERTAIN DEPARTMENT STORE, ONCE A YEAR, YOU MAY FIND HIM DANCING HAPPILY WITH HIS WIFE, THE LOVELY LAURA...
The End

THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT CHUN, THE SNAKE CHARMER, THAT SENT CHILLS RACING UP AND DOWN YOUR SPINE! CHILLS AS COLD AND CLAMMY AS THE SNAKES HE HANDLED WITH SUCH SKILL! PERHAPS IT WAS HIS EYES, AS DARK AND DEADLY AS THOSE OF ANY REPTILE — OR PERHAPS IT WAS BECAUSE HE HAD THE POWER TO INVOKE THE TERRIBLE **COBRA CURSE...**

CARNIVAL of TERROR

HERE IS THE REAL REASON — MILLIE SEARS...
C'MON IN, FOLKS! YA CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS THIS! WATCH MILLIE, THE QUEEN OF THE MIDWAY, DO HER FAMOUS HULA DANCE!
WOW — OH, BROTHER!
NOW MEET JOE DUGAN, WHO RUNS THE SHOOTING GALLERY...
NICE SHOOTING, BUSTER! YOU WIN A GENUINE EL STINKO CIGAR! STEP RIGHT UP, GENTS!
THE STAGE IS SET — AND ONE NIGHT THE PLAY BEGINS...
GOOD EVENING, MILLIE! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU! PLEASE STEP INTO MY TENT!
WHO — ME? WHAT D'YA WANT WITH ME?
25¢
BUT MILLIE IS CURIOUS, SO...
UGH, THESE SNAKES GIVE ME THE CREEPS! BUT WHAT DO YOU WANT, CHUN? I GOTTA DATE WITH JOE!
I WISH TO EXPLAIN, MILLIE, WHY I HAVE REMAINED WITH THIS DREARY LITTLE CARNIVAL ALL THESE MONTHS!
IT WAS TO BE NEAR YOU, MY DEAR! I LOVE YOU — I WANT YOU TO BE MY WIFE!
HUH! ARE YOU KIDDING?
YOU LAUGH AT CHUN? HOW DARE YOU?
HA-HA- HA — YOU REALLY MEAN IT! OH, THIS IS REALLY FUNNY! A PHONY IN A TURBAN, A SNAKE CHARMER, AND HE WANTS ME TO — HA-HA — MARRY HIM!
39

LATER...
SO THERE I WAS, JOE, BEING PROPOSED TO BY THIS SNAKE CHARMER CHARACTER! HONEST, I THOUGHT I'D DIE LAUGHING!
MAYBE YOU AIN'T SO SMART, MILLIE! YOU WON'T GET RICH DANCING, OR ME RUNNING A SHOOTING GALLERY!


AND I HEAR THIS CHUN IS LOADED — BUT HE DON'T BELIEVE IN BANKS! SO YOU WASN'T SO BRIGHT AFTER ALL!

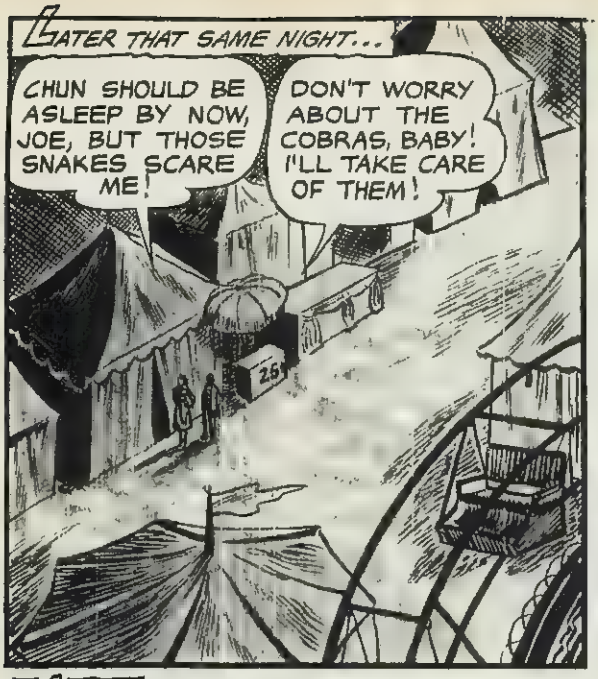
BUT MAYBE IT AIN'T TOO LATE YET! THIS GUY MUST HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU HARD, SO YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CON HIM ALONG! FIND OUT WHERE HE KEEPS HIS DOUGH!
OKAY, HONEY, IF YOU SAY SO!

NEXT EVENING...
SO, MILLIE, YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CHUN, I SEE!
MAYBE I AM — BUT YOU HAVE TO PROVE YOU'RE NO PHONY!

BY THAT I PRESUME YOU WISH TO KNOW IF I HAVE MONEY! YOU SEE, MILLIE, I KNOW YOUR TYPE, BUT I DO NOT CARE! I STILL WANT YOU!
YOU'VE GOT THE GENERAL IDEA!

SEE — I HAVE MONEY, LOTS OF IT! I KEEP IT IN A SAFE PLACE, GUARDED BY MY FAITHFUL COBRAS!
OHH — PUT THAT AWFUL SNAKE AWAY! I LIKE YOU, HONEY, BUT I HATE YOUR LITTLE PETS!

SUPPOSE I DID MARRY YOU, CHUN — WOULD YOU TAKE ME AWAY FROM THIS CARNIVAL?
OF COURSE! WE WILL RETURN TO OUR HOME IN INDIA!


LATER THAT SAME NIGHT...
CHUN SHOULD BE ASLEEP BY NOW, JOE, BUT THOSE SNAKES SCARE ME!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE COBRAS, BABY! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM!
25

AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS CHUN CHARACTER, TOO! THE CHUMP, FALLING FOR THAT LINE YOU GAVE HIM! ANYBODY THAT DUMB DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE! SEE THIS LITTLE HARPOON I MADE...
LET'S HURRY!

AND...
I-I DON'T WANT TO LOOK, JOE!
WON'T BE A MINUTE! HE'S SLEEPING LIKE A BABY!

NOBODY IN THE CARNIVAL REALLY LIKES THIS GUY ANYWAY, SO THEY WON'T WORRY MUCH WHEN HE'S FOUND DEAD! HE ALWAYS DID THINK HE WAS TOO GOOD FOR THE REST OF US!

OHHHHHH-
THERE, HE'S DONE FOR! NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT HIM! ALL WE GOT TO DO NOW IS GET THE MONEY AND BLOW!

COME ON, BABY, SHOW ME THE BASKET WITH THE MONEY! WE CAN'T HANG AROUND HERE ALL NIGHT!
B-BUT THE SNAKES! THEY'RE GUARDING THE MONEY! HOW...

I TOLD YOU I'D TAKE CARE OF THE COBRAS! JUST THE WAY I TOOK CARE OF CHUN, WITH THIS STICKER!
OH, BE CAREFUL!

LIKE THIS!
SSSSSSSS-

WOW, LOOK AT THIS LOOT! MUST BE AT LEAST FIVE GRAND HERE, ENOUGH TO TAKE US A LONG WAY OFF! BY THE TIME THESE YOKEL COPS CATCH ON, WE CAN BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY!
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

LET'S GO TO MEXICO CITY, JOE! I ALWAYS DID WANT TO GO THERE!
ANY PLACE YOU WANT, HONEY!
I'M AFRAID NEITHER OF YOU WILL BE GOING ANYWHERE!

Y-YOU! BUT YOU CAN'T BE— I KILLED YOU!
CHUN!
YOU STABBED A DUMMY, JOE! A DUMMY— LIKE YOURSELF!

CHUN MAKES SEVERAL MYSTERIOUS PASSES...
YOU FOOLS, TO THINK YOU COULD HOODWINK ME, CHUN, WHO KNOWS THE ANCIENT MAGIC OF THE EAST!
OHHH—
I FEEL FUNNY! YIIIIIIIIIIII—

AND A HORRIBLE TRANSFORMATION BEGINS...
GAAAAAA— HE'S CHANGING US INTO SNAKES!
NO— EEEE—
I CALL DOWN— THE COBRA CURSE!

DAYS PASS AND CHUN ENTERTAINS HIS AUDIENCE AS USUAL...
HAH—IF ONLY THE PEOPLE COULD SEE YOU AT NIGHT, MY PETS, WHEN I PLAY FOR MY OWN AMUSEMENT!
SSSSSSSSSS-
SHHHHHHHHH-
BUT EACH NIGHT...
MERCY, CHUN, PLEASE! LET US RETURN TO OUR HUMAN FORM!
YES, I BEG YOU! I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU ASK!
HA-HA—NOW IT IS CHUN WHO CALLS THE TUNE!
BUT SUDDENLY THE FLUTE SQUEAKS INTO SILENCE...
NEVER WILL I RELEASE YOU! NEVER WILL I BE SATISFIED! YOU WILL DANCE FOREVER!
MERCY! STOP THE MUSIC!
SAVE US!
M-MY FLUTE! THE REED IS BROKEN! I CAN'T CONTROL THE SNAKES!
NOW, JOE! OUR CHANCE! GET HIM!
YES! BITE HIM!
AHHHHHHHHHH—
HA-HA—THIS IS OUR REVENGE!
HOW DO YOU LIKE IT, CHUN?
BUT...
MILLIE! DO YOU KNOW WHAT WE'VE DONE?
Y-YES! WITH CHUN D-DEAD, WE HAVE TO STAY THIS WAY THE REST OF OUR LIVES!
THAT MORNING, JUST BEFORE THE DAWN BROKE GRAY AND SINISTER, TWO SNAKES WENT SLITHERING INTO A FOREST! THEY MUST BE THERE STILL, LIVING IN THE DANK EARTH, HATING ALL HUMANITY! BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU STEP!
The End

the BLEEDING RUBY

ONCE, BACK IN THE SHADOWS OF TIME, THERE LIVED A GREEDY KING! LUST HAD ETCHED HIS FACE AND MADE SPIDER HOLLOWS OF HIS EYES! FROM HIS TORTURE CHAMBERS CAME THE DYING SCREAMS OF THOSE HE HAD PILLAGED AND FORGOTTEN! NOW IT HAPPENED THAT THIS KING HAD A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WIFE... BUT THEREBY HANGS THE TALE OF...

SO THE KING SENT HIS JESTER TO FETCH THE MAGICIAN MERLO...
HAH— MERLO MUST BE MIXING A WITCHE'S BREW! SEE HOW THE SCAVENGERS HOVER!

WULF IS GREETED WITH DERISION...
HO, LOOK WHO COMES TO SEE OUR MASTER!
YOU ARE THE FOOLS! TAKE ME TO MERLO AT ONCE!
A FOOL!

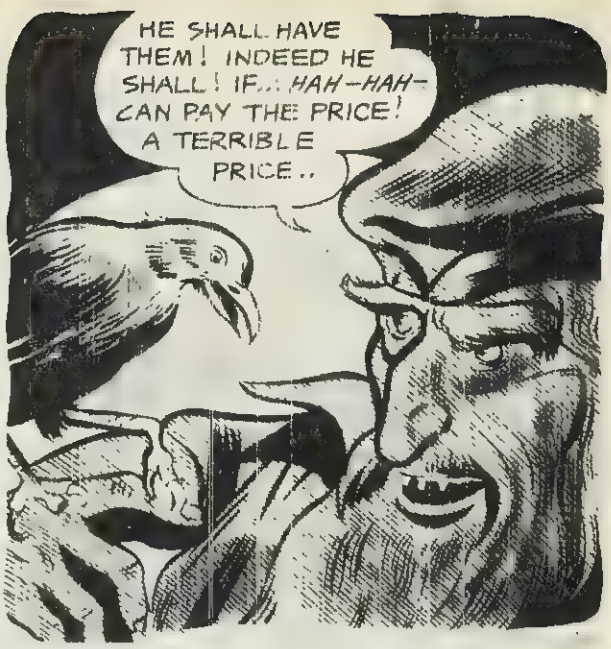
COME, JESTER! AND PRAY THAT MERLO DOES NOT SEND YOU TO JOIN THESE!
UGH—A VILE PLACE! IF MY BLOOD WERE WATER, IT WOULD FREEZE!

HAH—HAH! WELCOME, SIR FOOL! YOU CAN SHARE MY CAGE IF YOU WILL! HEH—HEH—HEH...

HERE WE ARE! BETTER PRAY, FOOL!
ENTER!
BEING A JESTER AND NOT A LIAR, I WILL NOT SAY THAT I AM NOT AFRAID.

GREETINGS, JESTER! MY VISION FORETOLD YOUR COMING! BUT IT WOULD NOT TELL ME WHAT YOU SEEK!

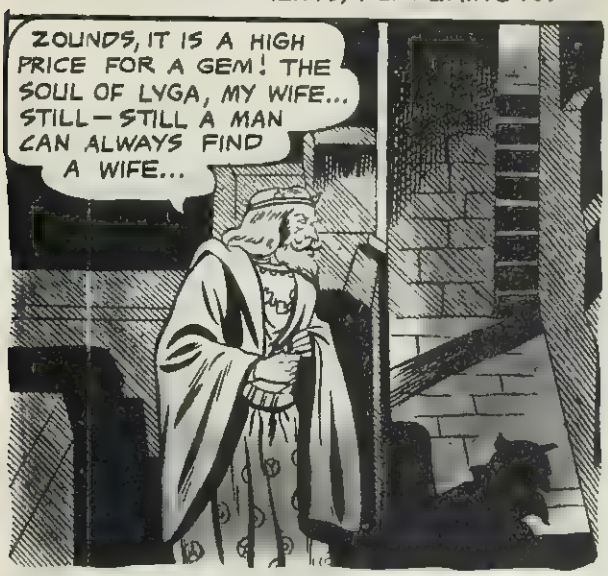
WULF EXPLAINS HIS MISSION...



SO IT IS AGREED...

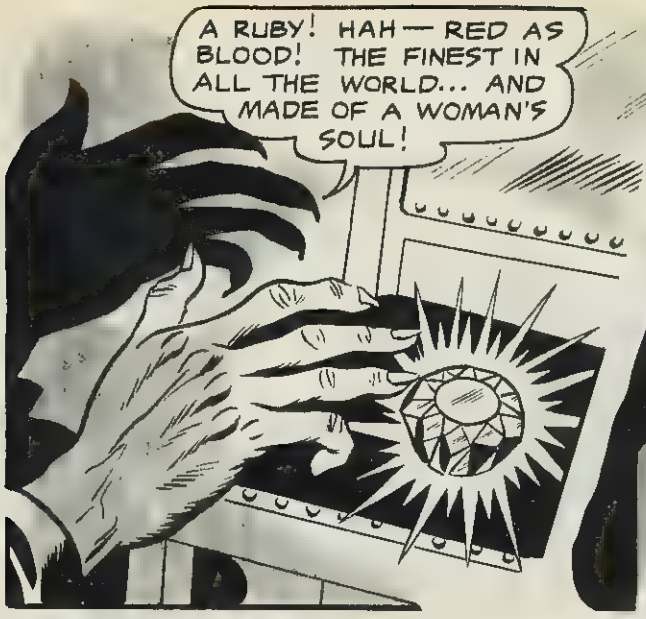
SO MERLO CAME TO THE CASTLE OF TARANTO WHERE ALREADY THE EVIL KING WAS PLANNING COLD AND BLOODY MURDER...

EVEN THE KING IS DAUNTED AT THE THOUGHT OF SELLING HIS WIFE'S SOUL! THAT NIGHT HE WALKS THE BATTLEMENTS, PONDERING...



SO AN HOUR LATER...

AND...


A RUBY! HAH — RED AS BLOOD! THE FINEST IN ALL THE WORLD... AND MADE OF A WOMAN'S SOUL!

LATER...
YOUR RUBY, SIRE! SEE HOW PURE AND DEEP IS THE COLOR! YOUR QUEEN LIVES WITHIN IT!
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MERLO! GIVE IT TO ME — QUICKLY!

YES! IT IS AS LOVELY AS WAS LYGA! AND NOW, MERLO, I WILL PAY YOU! GUARDS...

AT THE COMMAND OF THE KING...
YOU DIE, MERLO!
WHAT IS THIS TREACHERY?
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO! QUICKLY, BEFORE HE CAN CAST A SPELL ON US!

AND MERLO GOES TO JOIN THE TWO GUARDS WHO HAD SEIZED THE QUEEN...
YOU WILL BE BAIT FOR VULTURES SOON!
HAH-HAH— SAVE THYSELF, MAGICIAN!
I CURSE YOU ALL! I... AHHHHHH-

BUT ONE OTHER PERSON NOW KNOWS THE KING'S TERRIBLE SECRET...
MONSTER! SO THAT IS WHY LYGA DISAPPEARED! I, THOUGH BUT A FOOL, WILL HAVE VENGEANCE!

THE KING HAS NEVER SUSPECTED THAT HIS JESTER WULF HAS A SECRET ALSO... WULF WAS IN LOVE WITH LYGA...
I LOVED HER! NEVER DID SHE KNOW BECAUSE I AM ONLY A CLOWN! BUT I WORSHIPPED HER! AND HE WILL PAY— PAY AND PAY!

WULF TAKES TO WATCHING THE KING, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT...
LUCKY MURDERER! HIS GUARDS ARE ALWAYS CLOSE! AND I MUST SMILE WHEN I WOULD SLAY HIM!

THEN ONE NIGHT AS THE KING TAKES THE RUBY TO BED WITH HIM AS USUAL...
THE R-RUBY! SOMETHING IS HAPPENING TO IT! CHANGING... GETTING CLOUDY...

THE FACE OF LYGA APPEARS IN THE RUBY AND HER VOICE CLASHES LIKE SWORDPLAY IN THE KING'S DERANGED MIND...
LYGA! N—NO!
I AM COMING, SIRE! RETURNING! I WANT MY SOUL BACK! I WILL COME SOON NOW...

A CHILL OF TERROR RUNS THROUGH THE KING AS HE SEES A GHOST FORM APPEAR...
W—WHO... WHAT ARE YOU?
LYGA! IT—IT IS YOU?
YES! YOU SEE ME AS YOU MADE ME WITHOUT A SOUL! AM I NOT UGLY, MY LORD?

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THEN...
AT LAST, SIRE! I HAVE YOU ALONE! NOW YOU DIE!
YOU—WULF! YOU ARE INDEED A FOOL...
YOU THOUGHT TO SLAY ME! HAH—IT SHALL BE THE OTHER WAY AROUND!
UGHHH—
GO NOW AND JOIN THE OTHERS! I WILL LIVE IN PEACE ...WITH MY BEAUTIFUL RUBY...
GAAAAAA—
MY RUBY! TURNING TO BLOOD! HER BLOOD!
AH-HAH-HAH HEEE-EEE AH-HAAAH MMMM...
THEY PUT THE KING IN A TINY CHAMBER RESERVED FOR MADMEN...HIS SCREAMS DROVE EVERYONE AWAY UNTIL AT LAST HE WAS ALONE!
The End